

FRANK LESLIE'S ILLUSTRATED NEWS PAPER

SUPPLEMENT.]

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HISTORY OF THE WAR.

THE alliance of England and France, and their armed intervention against the aggressive policy of Russia in the East, is the memorable event of an eventful age; it is the commencement of a new European policy, in which the intelligence and power of the West fairly enter the lists as a counterpoise to the darkness and tyranny of the East; and the consequences which may result from it in the interests of civilization are not easily to be over-estimated.

One branch of operations undertaken by the Allied Powers was the defence of the Ottoman territory, and the reduction of the power of Russia in the Black Sea. The two armies proceeded to the East in the spring of 1854, and encamped at Varna, there to make the necessary arrangements for the invasion of the Crimea, and the siege of Sebastopol.

On the 7th of September, 58,000 men, of whom 25,000 were British, 25,000 French, and 8,000 Turks, embarked at Baltschik in a flotilla of nearly 300 vessels, and on the 14th arrived at the Crimea, twenty miles to the south of Eupatoria, and within four or five days' easy march from Sebastopol. The disembarkation of the troops having been accomplished, a small garrison was thrown into Eupatoria, and the march to Sebastopol undertaken.

On the night of the 19th the Allied forces bivouacked on the banks of a small stream, the Bouljanaek, and next morning advanced in battle array towards the Alma. Their front extended over two miles. The position of the Russians, crowning the heights on the opposite side of the river, was as formidable as nature and art could render it. They had 45,000 to 50,000 men, and one hundred pieces of cannon placed in redoubts, batteries, and commanding positions on the crests of the hills, and were protected in front by two deep trenches of more than a mile in length.

At the distance of about two miles, the Allied army first came in sight of the Russian position. Between them was the river Alma, and a village which the Russians set fire to just as our troops advanced; further on the sloping face of the hills, every inch of which was commanded by the fire of the Russian artillery. The French skirmishers descended the hill, crossed the river rapidly, and commenced exchanging shots with the Russian sharpshooters, who were entrenched behind stone walls; they afterwards pressed forward, charging the enemy up the heights to the south of the river.

While the extreme right was thus commencing the battle, the Rifles had crossed the river, and now threw out their skirmishers, quickly driving the Russians up the hill to their first trench and out of it. The leading divisions now crossed the river under a perfect storm of grape and musketry, the Russians having placed their guns in positions so as to sweep every point of the advance. The cannon of the British were used in throwing shells into the Russian entrenchments, while that of the Russians did severe execution upon the advancing regiments.

In spite of their fire, however, the leading regiments of the two British divisions fought their way up to the trench on the side of the hill, where the Russian sharpshooters were posted, and drove the enemy before them.

While the Light Division was thus engaged, the first division of Guards and Highlanders were rapidly advancing to their assistance. They were met by a tremendous fire, but they dashed on until within about twenty yards of the breastwork; then, the three battalions poured in a volley and climbed over the works. The struggle was not long in doubt. The Russians broke and fled before their assailants, and the heights were won. The possession of the heights tended materially to secure this victory, which was one of the most desperate and bloody that has occurred in the annals of modern warfare.

On the third day after the battle, the allied forces advanced to the river Belbec. The whole country, between the Belbec and the river is covered with an extensive jungle. Through which, by a forced march of seventeen hours' duration, the troops reached the heights to the south of Sebastopol; and marched into Balaklava.

The site of Sebastopol is a league and a half distant from the sea, and the fortifications are chiefly directed against an attack by sea; the entrance of the outer harbor being defended by three strong forts—the Quarantine battery and Alexander forts on the south; Fort Constantine on the north; and the whole length of the harbor on either side being fortified by batteries, carrying heavy guns, in double and triple tiers. The Quarantine Bay, on the west, was defended by a double battery.

The works of the besiegers were divided into three attacks—two on the British, and one on the French side. The English batteries mounted in all about thirty-eight 32-pounders, thirty 56-pounders, thirty 68-pounders, eighteen 84-pounders, and about a dozen of 12 and 13-inch mortars, with six Lancaster guns, throwing 96-pound solid shot.

A general order issued by Lord Raglan late on the evening of the 16th Oct., made known to the troops the gratifying intelligence that fire would be opened from the trenches against Sebastopol at half-past six on the following morning. At that time precisely, the signal was given, and all the guns in the Allied lines burst forth with a

tremendous boom. The effect was terrific. As volley after volley succeeded each other in quick succession; they were met by return fires from the Russians. The peals were deafening. In about an hour the fire of the Russians had considerably slackened. The Russian fire, though well directed, made no impression upon our batteries; whilst it was evident that the earth of theirs was rolling away, and flying off in dust-heaps, from the discharge of our heavy guns.

Before the day's firing was over, the heavy fire directed upon the French had the effect of silencing their batteries, and for the remainder of the day the English alone bore the brunt of the attack.

While this was taking place on the heights, the fleet moved up to the attack of the forts at the entrance of the harbor. The men-of-war were towed into their positions by steamers, lashed alongside, and the French advanced first about half-past twelve o'clock, the other vessels following in succession. Two Turkish men-of-war were stationed in the intermediate space, to render whatever assistance was possible; but they took little part in the engagement. Owing to the shoals and sunken ships, the men-of-war could not approach close enough to the batteries to deliver their fire effectively; but the Constantine battery was silenced, several guns dismantled, and a considerable number of men killed and wounded.

The forts used red-hot shot, carcasses, and bar-shot, and the terrible effects of these were soon apparent. The Albion, Arethusa, Ville de Paris, and other ships, were on fire more than once, but they were fortunately enabled to extinguish the flames. Nearly all the upper tiers of guns on the Russian fortresses were dismantled; but before the end of the day they had all been replaced, and when the fleet moved off at dusk they cheered vociferously.

On the 18th, the French were unable to resume firing, which enabled the Russians to direct all their energies upon the English batteries, and their fire was much heavier than on the previous day. It was evident, also, that they were enabled to bring up fresh guns to replace those dismantled, and to repair, during the night, the damage done to their batteries by the firing of the day.

The second day's operations were enlivened by an attack in the direction of Balaklava to the rear of the Allies. The Russians advanced in force with seven battalions of infantry, four thousand horse, and six field-pieces. There were in the batteries opposed to them, four thousand Turks, the 93rd Highlanders, and Maude's troop of horse-artillery. After an ineffectual firing, the Russians retired beyond range of our guns.

On the 19th, Lord Raglan, who had hitherto confined his attention to the forts and batteries, gave permission to throw red-hot shot, shells, and carcasses into the town; and much mischief and many conflagrations ensued.

October 20th commenced under better auspices. The French were enabled to re-open their batteries, and at a nearer point to the enemy's intrenchments. Deserters and Poles began to arrive from the town, who reported that the state of the besieged was dreadful—that they had a very small supply of water—that many of the houses were in ruins; frequent conflagrations took place, and the dead cumbered the streets, there being no one to bury them.

The fire on both sides re-opened with redoubled fury on the 21st, that of the Russians being well sustained, and the number of their guns being still greater than on the previous days.

Skirmishers were daily sent out by the besiegers at least a thousand yards in advance of the batteries, and within a couple of hundred yards of the enemy's works.

On the 25th a very formidable attack was made on the rear of the English position by General Liprandi and 30,000 men, with the object of seizing the heights of Balaklava. He had proceeded through the mountain defiles, taking with him no artillery or cavalry, and it would appear that he was able completely to disguise his march from the Allies.

The only British regiment on the spot at the time the enemy advanced in force, was the 93rd Highlanders, with some battalions of weakly men, and a battery of artillery. The First and Fourth Divisions were immediately sent for, and General Canrobert reinforced them with a division of infantry and Chasseurs d'Afrique. The enemy first attacked the outlying redoubts, only one of which offered any resistance, and took possession of them, turning the guns on the flying Turks. The Russian cavalry, in great strength, supported by artillery, made a dash at the 93d, assailing the front and right flank; but they were driven back by the steady fire of that regiment. They then encountered the British Heavy Brigade, which charged through their columns, and soon put them to flight, although they were much superior in numbers. The Russians having retired and reformed behind their artillery, at this point of the battle a very disastrous but brilliant charge was made by the Light Brigade, "from some misconception of the instructions," across a plain of more than a mile, up a height crowned and flanked by artillery, which they reached, sabring the gunners, and then retiring before the dense masses of the enemy, amidst a front and flanking fire, which killed and wounded two-thirds of the gallant band. It would have fared still worse with them if the Chasseurs d'Afrique had not attacked

and silenced for a time one of the batteries. This terminated the fiercely-contested engagement, in which the loss on both sides was extremely great; but Lord Raglan, at the close of the day, found it advisable to give up a portion of his extended position, and concentrate his forces nearer the town, not having men enough to defend it fully. The enemy's force was estimated at eighteen or nineteen battalions of infantry, thirty to forty guns, and a large body of cavalry.

The Russians now fortified their position on the high ground immediately in front of our defences of Balaklava, and the siege of Sebastopol presented the extraordinary spectacle of a town besieged by a combined army of French, English, and Turkish forces, while the besiegers in their turn were literally besieged by another powerful Russian army. There was a further anomaly, that instead of the Allied force besieging Sebastopol being, as it ought according to military rules, far superior to the garrison, the latter was numerically superior, and the Russian army in the field was still larger and more formidable by reason of its cavalry and artillery. On the little triangular spot between the town of Sebastopol and Balaklava the Allied forces were now compelled to sustain attacks in front and upon both flanks, and the necessity of large re-inforcements under such circumstances became obvious.

The impending storm broke over the heads of the Allied army on the 5th of November; overwhelming numbers assailed them at early morning, under the shroud of an impervious mist, and at one moment the issue threatened to be one of complete disaster; but indomitable courage at length prevailed against the closely-wedged masses of the barbarian host; and the flags of England and France again rose triumphant—though bathed in blood—at the battle of Inkermann.

Shortly before daylight on the 5th of November, strong columns of the Russians came upon the advanced pickets, covering the right of the Allied positions. The pickets received them with admirable gallantry, until they were supported by a strong body of British troops which advanced to their relief. The morning was extremely dark, with a drizzling rain, rendering it almost impossible to discover anything beyond the flash and smoke of artillery. It soon became evident that the Russians had advanced numerous batteries to the high ground and the left of the British line, while powerful columns of infantry attacked the brigade of Guards.

Under the protection of a tremendous fire, the Russians advanced in great force, and were received by two battalions of French infantry, who had just joined the British line. At the same time a vigorous assault was made on the left of the British line, and for a moment the Russians obtained possession of four of the British guns; but they were speedily re-captured, and the Russians driven back.

The battle continued with unabated vigor and with no positive result, till the afternoon, when the symptoms of giving way first became apparent; and shortly after, the retreat became general, heavy masses were observed retiring over the bridge of the Inkermann, and ascending the opposite heights, abandoning on the field of battle five or six thousand dead and wounded, multitudes of the latter having already been carried off by them.

The loss of the Russians in killed and wounded was estimated at 9000 men, and 3000 in prisoners; that of the Allied armies was heavy—heavier than in either of the two previous engagements; that of the British being 2400, and that of the French 1780. Amongst the British officers killed were men of the brightest fame and promise, including Lieutenant-General Sir George Cathcart, Brigadier-General Strangways, and Brigadier-General Goldie. Amongst the French, General de Lourmel was killed.

After the Battle of Inkermann, engineers were set to work to fortify the camp with a complete line of entrenchments, covering the crest of the range of hills in the rear, which were from 600 to 1200 feet in height; the latter were scarped where required, and redans and other works thrown out, with redoubts at the most important and commanding points.

The sufferings of the terrible winter which followed have been often described in strong language over and over again; but still in language, we fear, falling short of the hideous reality. We take the account of this period, and of the renewed preparations with which the Allies busied themselves on the return of spring, as well as of the additional works constructed by the besieged, from the pages of General Klapka.

"The period of suffering for the Allied armies now commenced. The south-western extremity of the Taurian peninsula was gradually turned into a vast cemetery, where the French buried a considerable portion of their best troops, and the English not only their army, but, as it would seem, also the prestige of their war administration. Unexpected disasters contributed to increase the pressure of misfortune. For example, the hurricane on the 14th of November destroyed a great number of transports, amongst the rest the splendid steamer *Prince*, whereby enormous supplies and almost the entire winter-clothing for the English troops were lost. The soldier had no better shelter against rain, snow, and frost than his airy tent. The impassable road between the camp and the coast prevented the



DR. KANE AND HIS COMRADES ABANDONING THE "ADVANCE." FROM A SKETCH MADE ON THE SPOT

were fired from Governors Island, the Battery, and the various shipping in port, as the brig *Advance* was towed down the Bay, and a nation's farewell was continued until the vessel was out of sight.

The first port made was St. John's, Newfoundland, where the expeditionists received every attention from the Governor and inhabitants. They afforded the navigators every facility for procuring whatever they deemed essential for future use. Among other articles they obtained eight Labrador dogs for sledging in the snow. After a stay of two days, they proceeded northward, arriving at Fishkenoes about the fourth of July. Here they purchased furs, sledge dogs, and other necessities, and also engaged an Esquimaux as hunter for the party. They then sailed on, touching at various intermediate places, until they reached Melville Bay, which was crossed, and made the headland of Smith's Sound. Here the ice proved utterly impracticable to the northward, and accordingly the party was constrained to attempt a passage along the coast, where the violent tides had made a temporary opening. Before venturing upon this hazardous undertaking, a cairn was erected in which was deposited despatches relating to the history of the party; a Francis metallic life boat, together with a store of provisions, to retire upon, in case of accident happening to the ship.

The passage through the pack ice was attended with imminent peril; the brig grounded at every tide, masses of ice were continually crushing against her timbers, and to the vessel's extreme length alone were they indebted for her overcoming all difficulties. Several times was the brig thrown upon her beam ends, and on one occasion she took fire from the upsetting of the stoves in one of these violent shocks.

The daily progress was but trifling; however, by Sept. 10th, the party succeeded in gaining the northern face of Greenland, a point of land more extreme north than ever reached by any previous explorer. Here fresh formed ice gathered round the vessel, completely closing her in. The cold of that season was beyond known precedent: in the month of November their whiskey froze, and for four months the mercury was solid daily. During this confinement to winter quarters (which were nearer to the Pole than ever yet attained), the health of the party was generally good, and having abundance of provisions, the scurvy did not much trouble them. But the most singular feature of the case, was the prevalence of a tetanus or lock-jaw, produced by the intensity of the cold, and which defied all medical treatment. Fifty-seven Esquimaux dogs perished from this novel attack.

In March they commenced their exploration, Dr. Kane in person taking charge of the first party, the mercury still standing at 67° below zero. The loss of their dogs compelled them to cross the ice. Many of the men were frost-bitten during this terrible journey, and several had to suffer amputation of the toes. It is to such fearful sufferings, however, that we are indebted for the important scientific results of this expedition. The parties under Dr. Kane followed up the coast line of Greenland, which was discovered to bear in the direction of the Atlantic, the course laying due north, until their further progress was checked by the projection of a steep glacier. This mass of ice which thus impeded their path towered five hundred feet in perpendicular height, and abutted with immense stretch into the sea. This is, undoubtedly, the only obstacle to the insularity of Greenland, or, in other words, the only barrier between Greenland and the Atlantic Ocean. It presents, however, an effectual impediment to all further explorations. They skirted the base of this glacial projection round into the sea, exposed to great danger from the falling bergs, which ever and anon detached themselves from the congealed mass, and fell with loud reverberations into the water which washed its base; rafting themselves across the intervals of open sea upon the floating ice. In this manner they travelled eighty miles until they finally reached a *terra incognita*, the connection of the glacier with Newfoundland.

The approach of the Polar winter, at the early part of July, compelled the explorers to return to their companions. The grand object of the expedition had been obtained, however, and Dr. Kane had the singular pleasure of discovering the confirmation of his views, expressed before the Geographical Society, in respect to the existence of a Polar Sea. Dr. Kane found the channel leading to these waters entirely clear of ice, and this circumstance is heightened in interest by the discovery of a zone, or solid belt of ice, extending upward of one hundred and twenty-five miles to the southward. An area of three thousand square miles was thus seen entirely free from ice. Land bearing to the north and west was charted as high as 82° 30', which is the nearest approach to the Pole ever yet achieved. This land was, with great propriety, named after Mr. H. Grinnell.

On the return of the exploring parties, they found the ship still fast imprisoned in a large field of ice, and all hope was abandoned of liberating her before the approaching winter. Provisions were still abundant, although scarcely of a nature calculated to resist scurvy; but their fuel was becoming alarmingly scarce. Every piece of timber about the brig, not positively necessary for her navigation, was torn down and used for fuel, and to such an extremity of economy was the party driven, that the fuel of each day was weighed before it was given out, it being under the circumstances more precious than gold. Viewing these threatening difficulties, Dr. Kane, with a party of volunteers, started out in an attempt to reach the mouth of Lancaster Sound, in the hope of falling in with some English expedition. They passed in an open boat over the track of Baffin's travel, a heavy gale threatening to engulf their frail bark, but an impassable barrier of ice extending, in the shape of a horse-shoe, from Jones's to Murchison's Sounds, compelled the baffled adventurers to return to the brig.

Shut up for a second winter in their icy solitude, the party adopted the habits of the Esquimaux, making their food of raw walrus meat, and surrounding themselves with a torres of moss. In spite of all their precautions, the scurvy broke out amongst the men, and advanced with irresistible progress, until every one of the expedition, with the exception of Dr. Kane and another, was confined to his bed. The commander, succeeded, by means of a team of dogs, in effecting a communication with the Esquimaux, whom he found seventy miles to the southward. With these he exchanged provisions, and by organizing a hunt, procured some slight relief. On the return of Dr. Kane to the vessels, he was followed by some of the natives, who, by thus establishing a communication with the vessel, continued their visits during the winter. These Esquimaux, upon their arrival in the vicinity of the *Advance*, commenced a series of petty thefts, at times, however, destroying most valuable property. Nothing displays more perfectly the ability of Dr. Kane as an explorer, than the manner he acted towards these ignorant people. Finding that remonstrances were in vain, he commenced retaliation, and succeeded in capturing a couple of women, whom he held as hostages. After three or four days, their husbands and friends made their appearance, and negotiated for the release of the women from imprisonment. To accomplish this, the Esquimaux returned all the articles they had stolen, and promising to behave themselves in future, took their spouses and went away. Faith, however, was not kept. Again was our navigator subjected to the destruction of property and loss by theft. Prisoners, a woman and a boy, were taken and held as hostages, and this time their release was made dependent upon more severe exactions. Dr. Kane terrified the depredators, by giving out that the imprisoned parties were in danger of being sacrificed for the punishment of their friends, and that nothing would save them but the restitution of all stolen goods, together with the giving up of their own personal property. The scene was described as truly affecting; as these simple people brought in their household goods, their oil-lamps, and prepared skins, and laid them down for the release of their friends. Every thing was gathered and seemingly appropriated. The prisoners were released, and in mournful procession were about marching away, when Dr. Kane called them back, restored to them their property, made some presents, and established imperative rules for future intercourse. The result was, that these poor children of the Borean regions became his trusty friends, were never afterwards guilty of the least act of piracy, and finally displayed their friendship by making the largest sacrifices to release him from captivity, and start him on his journey towards the more hospitable regions of the south.

Thus their second winter was passed amidst these frozen regions, and on the approach of summer, their case seemed as hopeless as ever. The *Advance* was in the centre of a vast field of ice, fuel was exhausted, and all the joiner-work of the ship burnt up; to stay there a third winter, would be to await their certain death, and yet, what means of retreat were before them? The great belt of ice precluded all possibility of relief approaching them from the southward, and the only alternative for escape was in the abandonment of the brig, and in forcing a passage southward by means of their boats and sledges. Determining finally upon this hazardous attempt, Dr. Kane, on May 17, 1855, deserted the brig in which he and his crew

had been imprisoned for twenty months. The philosophical instruments, the records of the cruise, and the supplies, clothing, and provisions at command were placed in the small boats, which were in turn fastened upon sledges. The services of the Esquimaux no became invaluable—with the utmost disinterestedness, they contributed whatever they possessed to further Dr. Kane's wishes, in return, they found themselves made the wealthiest people in all that sterile country, by being presented with all the property abandoned by the expeditionists, which had no necessary connection with the value of the *Advance*, if at any future time it should be found possible for any civilized party to bring her away. Every preparation completed, the journey commenced. A long and agonizing glance was expended upon the brig, and the party, exhausted by long-suffering, but still full of resolution, commenced the retreat. The sick men, four in number, were placed in sledges, and in some instances gallantly pushed forward by the Esquimaux, the tediousness, and absolute heart-sickening character of this journey can be dimly realized when it is understood, that for want of dogs to drag the whole party, Dr. Kane, and the men possessed of health, had to go over the same ground three times a-day, first moving on one half of the party, say twenty miles, then returning for those temporarily left behind; thus after sixty miles, only twenty was made upon the journey.

A belt of ice was thus laboriously crossed of eighty miles in extent, to accomplish which, Dr. Kane, had travelled 250 miles; this was done with the mercury many degrees below Zero, with no shelter at night but the imperfect one of the open boats and sledges. The food, meanwhile, reduced to the smallest allowance, at times only two ounces of powdered bread and two hard eggs at a meal. For thirty-one days was continued this terrible march, which brought the party to Cape Alexander, where the expeditionists embarked upon the open water, and for the distance of three hundred miles, sometimes dragged themselves through and over fields of floating ice, and at times in imminent danger.

It was in the prosecution of the latter part of this eventful journey that Dr. Kane met with an adventure, the details of which are well calculated, as he says, to teach us that we are often rescued from impending death by the special interposition of Providence. Attempting to make a landing, that seemed the only desirable one in sight, there came on an increase of the ever-prevailing storm, which drove the party off the shore, and it was not until a distance of thirty miles had been made, in combating the elements, that the party made a landing. This was the darkest hour of the whole expedition. Provisions were nearly all gone, most of the men had become helpless by starvation and toil, when Dr. Kane took his gun and started out in the hope of obtaining food. Most unexpectedly he came upon a vast rock of black basalt. It glistened like a crystal, and at its base could be seen caverns, which might have served for fairy revels. Upon its top were built the nests of millions of water-fowl, the juicy flesh of which would be hailed with delight upon the tables of our costly hotels. For thirty long miles had these noble men struggled and suffered, in their useless attempt to reach the shore, and yet, unconscious to themselves, they were drifting to a haven of safety—to a land of abundance, upon the reaching of which, depended their lives—their salvation from impending ruin.

To fitly commemorate, by all possible means in his power, his providential deliverance, Dr. Kane added to his heartfelt expressions of gratitude to an overruling power, the beautiful incident of opening a case containing a cake contributed to the expedition by a beautiful lady of Boston. The appearance of a household delicacy, and one so exquisitely delicious, revived ten thousand recollections of home, inspired new hopes, and the whole party, now in excellent spirits, finally reached Melville Bay, on their way to some of the frontier Danish settlements.

In the meantime, the public mind at home became greatly alarmed for the safety of the navigators. Apprehensions were expressed on all sides; and a movement was made towards fitting out a third expedition to go in quest of them. It was regarded as so hopeless an attempt, that the proposal did not meet with that cordial support, which those interested in the case considered it deserving of. After some little delay, however, Congress appropriated \$150,000 for that purpose, and the expedition, consisting of the propeller *Arctic*, Lieut. Hartstein, and the clipper barque *Release*, Lieut. Simons, were sent on the errand of mercy. The expedition left New York on April 30th last, and reached Lively, on the Island of Disco, by the 6th of July, in the midst of a heavy snow storm. Leaving this place on the 16th, they entered "the Pack" that same afternoon, making slow progress for three days; they were then favored with an open lead, and passed to the north of the Duck Islands, the *Release* being in tow of the *Arctic*. On arriving in latitude 78° 36', they were arrested by the ice, and on proceeding to an examination of the coast, they discovered natives, who informed them that the object of their search had abandoned his vessel, and gone southward.

On learning this, the vessels altered their course, and crossed to the opposite shore, when they separated, the propeller steering for Lancaster Sound. When off Cape Home, she fell in with such quantities of ice, as to compel her to seek the south coast of Lancaster Sound; finding the westward passage blocked up, she came out of the ice, and fell in with the *Release*, when both vessels proceeded to Possession Bay. They next explored the coast closely to Pond's Bay, but finding no trace of Dr. Kane, on August 31st they started for Upernivik. Ice was again met in lat. 73°, lon. 65°, which continued to obstruct their passage as far as lat. 69° 30', when the sea again cleared. From this point they determined to return to Lively, as the winter was already upon them, and from information they had gleaned, they entertained hopes of meeting with Dr. Kane.

This intrepid adventurer, whom we left with his companions, in their open boats in Melville Bay, after an exposure of 81 days, during which time he accomplished a distance of 1300 miles, arrived finally at Upernivik, the largest of the group of Danish settlements. Here the worn-out party became the welcome guests of Olric, Royal Inspector of Greenland, who treated Dr. Kane and his party with every mark of hospitality. Our heroes after some little delay, took passage in a Danish sailing vessel for England; but by most singular good fortune, happening to touch at the Isle of Disco, they fell in with Capt. Hartstein's expedition. After a stay of five days at this port, the vessels weighed anchor and started for home. The voyage was a pleasant one, and on the 11th of October, 1855, the expeditionists and the parties sent out for the rescue arrived in the harbor of New York. The announcement that Dr. Kane and his companions were safe filled the country with joy, the story of his sufferings throbbed along the electric wires of the telegraph until every hamlet and home was greeted with the welcome news. Few warriors returning from victory, ever excited half the sincere exultation which burst spontaneously forth, at the almost unlooked-for return of the Arctic explorers.

The Arctic dogs have deservedly been noticed and their merits as faithful companions of man, and, as beasts of burden, are now for the first time beginning to be understood. Dr. Kane gives it as his experience, that they should entirely supersede the use of ships in the prosecution of future discoveries. In one excursion of Dr. Kane, in twelve days, these wonderful animals, in spite of every obstacle, dragged their heavy loads seventy miles. "Toodles" the only survivor of the pack, whose extraordinary escape from the craving appetites of starving men, is now a subject of so much gratulation, is seemingly as gentle, intelligent and well-behaved as if he were the nursing of some gentleman's kennel, rather than the offspring of noxious barbarians. To this animal the men of the *Advance* are devotedly attached, and his health and happiness are subjects of constant solicitude. It would seem that our coldest weather will, to him, be oppressive with heat, and that the commencement of our summer solstice, unless he can hide away in the contents of an ice-house will burn him to death.

Among the things worthy of record is the conduct of the men who served under Dr. Kane; they were in every case volunteers. Their love of adventure, and their desire to enter upon a daring enterprise caused them to step forward, with the full knowledge that better pay could be had upon any of our merchant ships coasting from port to port. For the absurd remuneration of fifteen dollars a month did these men enter upon their duties. The extraordinary necessities of the voyage, in extra clothing, in furs, or in demands that could not be anticipated, absolutely brought many of them in debt to the ship on their return home. Three of the crew only sank under their sufferings, among whom was the carpenter of the *Advance*. His last words expressed his faith in the belief, that his government would not let his wife and children suffer. It is these noble traits exhibited among men, who feel that the public eye is upon them, who expect no reward but the consciousness of having faithfully discharged their duty, that redeems human nature, that achieves the noble victories in arts and arms, to which the race points with the greatest pride.

MUSIC.

ITALIAN OPERA.—Since the production of the *Prophecy*, the only novelty at the Fourteenth Street Opera House, has been the *Adieu* of Madame Nantier Dillee, in the character of *Arace*, in Rossini's *Semiramide*. In personal appearance, she is very prepossessing; of medium height, with fine expressive face, and well-proportioned figure. She treads the stage gracefully, and acts easily and naturally. Her voice is certainly not a pure, natural contralto; it partakes more of the mezzo-soprano quality, and in its proper range is exceedingly sweet and melodious, but where the registers join, three or four notes are painfully weak, and all below are neither pure nor round; being in fact those forced stomach tones which may be easily produced, but are of little use when produced. They are sometimes effective in slow, sustained music, but in rapid passages they become husky, and lose all quality. Either she has not studied diligently to smooth the irregularities of her voice, or they were too formidable to be overcome; so that the difference between the upper and lower registers are as that between the octave flute and the bassoon. Her method and style are fair, but do not warrant our critical friends in awarding her a niche, even within a hundred miles of the peerless Alboni.

La Grange, as *Semiramide*, pleased us greatly. Brilliant and ornate as her style is generally, she found her match in this music, but to her credit be it said, she mastered all the elaborate *fortissimo* with graceful ease. The Bassi, Morelli and Gasparoni, sang well, and did not shrink the difficult passages of execution, with which their music abounds.

Here all praise must end. Arnold cannot sing two bars of the music, and should not have been put in so painful a position. No one knew better than the director that he was utterly, physically unable to fill the part, and that all the concerted music in which he was concerned must, per force, be spoiled. It proved even worse than we anticipated. With the few exceptions mentioned above, this fine opera was performed in a very slovenly manner, and reflected no credit on any one concerned.

NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.—The first concert of the fourteenth season was given at Niblo's Theatre, on Saturday evening last, November 24. The following programme was selected for the occasion:—

PART I.	
Symphony. No. 6.....	Beethoven.
Aria. From St. Paul.....	Mr. Otto Feder.
Concerto. Two violins.....	Brothers Mollenhauer.
PART II.	
Overture. <i>Iphigenie in Aulis</i> , first time.....	Gluck.
German Songs.....	Die Lockung.....Decker.
	Morgenstaendchen.....Schubert.
	Mr. Otto Feder.
Overture. Jannhauser.....	Wagner.

The first movement of the symphony was taken a shade too fast; it is, to be sure, marked *Allegro ma non troppo*, but it was just too fast for that tempo. The emotions described so faithfully, are those aroused by the sight of a beautiful landscape. The impressions are eminently calm and peaceful, and any appearance of hurry destroys the dreamy poetry of the scene. Otherwise, it was carefully played, exhibiting the most perfect pianissimo that we have ever heard from this orchestra. The second movement was admirably played in every respect. It describes a ride on the banks of a murmuring streamlet. The opening figure conveys a perfect image of the rolling, ceaseless motion, and the soothing murmurs of running water. This is the woe of the movement, but a thousand other images are wrought in; the rush of the winds, the emotions of unexpressed delight, the songs of birds—the cuckoo, the quail, the nightingale, and through all a positive sensation of continuous motion. There is hardly in the whole range of music a more perfect tone-picture, or one whose details are more legible, even to the unthinking of a strong original mind—pre-ens. The performance was all that could be desired; it was carefully, feelingly and delicately executed. From our description, it may be imagined how countless are the points of detail in this elaborately simple composition. We listened to it with earnest attention, and for the first time in New York, we lost no single note—all those *diamond points of dissonance* in the wind-instruments, which are so delicate, so refined, and are to the tone-picture what *feeling* is to the art-picture, were faithfully revealed, and gave that perfection to the performance, which, up to this time the Philharmonic orchestra had never achieved. We feel much pleasure in being able to award unreserved praise both to the conductor and the members of the orchestra. In this instance they proved what they can do; all the material is there, but it is not often used to the best advantage. The two last movements were fairly played, but they have been executed by the same orchestra.

Mr. Otto Feder sang two very pleasant German songs, in the German language, never a very pleasant language to sing in, and not rendered in this case any pleasant, by the style or manner of the singer. Mr. Feder may be a very fair amateur singer, and may be acceptable to the Society, as he sings for nothing, but neither his amateurism nor his gratuitous services will render him acceptable to the public, more especially at such concerts as the Philharmonic. The only test applied by the directors of the Philharmonic as to the fitness of a vocalist to appear before the refined audience of these concerts, is the price—those who charge nothing are the best.

The Brothers Mollenhauer, so favorably known to our public, played very admirably on the occasion, and were most heartily and justly applauded. The overture by Gluck was well played. It is a clear and well-defined composition, but a little too square-cut for the ears of our modern dilettante. It has an antiquated air, but it bears the impress of a strong original mind—a mind free from mock sentimentality and unhealthy exaggeration.

The overture to Jannhauser, by Richard Wagner, was the closing piece of the concert. At the last concert of the past season, it was unanimously endorsed, on this occasion it was listened to with impatience, a large portion of the audience leaving before its conclusion—bad taste, by the way. We look upon this as pretty significant that it does not improve upon acquaintance. Richard Wagner is its new man, who, by the musical mysticisms of Germany is elevated to the position of a Prophet in the art. In their endeavors to maintain him, they have found it necessary to denounce all that is clear and common-sense in art, and to overthrow the idols whom musical nations reverence. Mendelssohn is the special object of their attack, but though he is vigorously assaulted, we think he will survive the onslaught. Wagner is in the front of musical reformers, and in his object we are cordially with him. There is much that needs reform in every department of musical composition, but from what we know of the works of Wagner, Schumann, and other new lights, we doubt if the reforms will be reached by them, though they may be reached through them; for from out of the chaos of their incoherencies, their forced modulations, their unmusical forms, and their harsh sequences, may arise a new system that shall supersede the hackneyed forms and closes, the stereotyped modulations and used-up sequences of our present style. But to achieve this desired end, music will be for some time in a transition state; much will have to be endured from the night-mare affected dreamers of the Wagner school, and his still more unintelligible followers, until there shall arise a Mozart and a Beethoven in their midst, whose genius shall throw a light upon their ponderous and soulless labors, and the lost track in which Beethoven and Mozart travelled will be discovered, followed, and music shall be young again, with vigor, freshness, and an aim in the right direction.

Wagner displays too much knowledge and too much boldness to allow any man who values his own reputation to pass him by slightly or sneeringly; for after all, casting our eye around, he is still "a triton among the minnows." We will, therefore, quote a few lines of Wagner's own description of the plot of his overture:—"A procession of pilgrims chant, as they pass along, a lay of penitence and faith. The song swells into a torrent as it draws near, and with approaching twilight its dying echo is heard. As the shades of night fall, magical visions of every hue arise; rapturous sounds of joy strike the ear, while the movements of the voluptuous dance are felt. These are the dangerous allurements of the Mountain of Venus. Led on by his own sensual passions, the poet Jannhauser approaches, as he is travelling, the poetical tournament. His exulting song of love resounds as if to conjure around him the luxurious magic. Wild shouts of joy respond, enchanting colors intoxicate his senses, and his view is dazzled by the appearance of a female form of indescribable beauty. It is the goddess herself. Fired with passion and hot consuming desire, he is drawn towards the vision, and pours forth his rapturous song of joy in her praise. The wonders of the Mountain of Venus are now displayed before him; wild ecstatic cries resound on every side; Bacchantes sweep by, bearing the poet in their frantic dances to the arms of Venus. As the wild host moves on, the storm gives way to plaintive sounds, murmuring like the sighing of unholy passions. But with the morning dawn, the chant of the pilgrim is again heard, and with the rising of the sun comes the rejoicing of the Mountain of Venus itself, freed from the stain of unholy passion, mingling with the songs of heaven. It is the union of reason and the senses, the spiritual and the material, God and nature."

It commences with rather a pleasant melody, for the wind-instruments very deep down in the bass, which increases in volume of tone until it becomes, see the description, "a torrent." A bold fantastic figure for the *strings*, indicates magical visions and rapturous sounds, which is interrupted by an exulting song of love, full of passionate beauty and physical strength; then follows that bewildering figure which is carried through myriads of changes unto the very end, while through it is heard the stately walk of the great brass instruments, bearing the melody of the chant. It is to this last brilliant and effective figure or passage, that the overture owes all its public success, and yet, to our understanding, it is a mere passage, utterly meaningless when considered in reference to the design of the work, which is broad and intelligible; it seems to be a figure hit upon, hap-hazard, which does not suggest even a metaphysical relation to the subject. As a point of detail, it is irrelevant; as a point of fact, about as worthless as the *crescendo* tag to Rossini's overtures, while it is more incoherent, yet more brilliant. Our limited space prevents our pursuing the subject further at this time, but we shall revert to it hereafter, and shall as freely state what we find to admire, as what, for the good of art, we feel compelled to condemn. Mr. Bergner conducted the concert.

We forgot to state that Niblo's large theatre was crowded to overflowing on this occasion, we would at the same time suggest to the directors that the public naturally expect to see Mr. Eisfeld, to whom the society owes so much, resume the *lata* at the next concert.

W. MARON AND C. BERGMAN'S FIRST CLASSICAL MATINEE.—A numerous and fashionable audience assembled at Dodworth's Room on this occasion. The selections were from the modern classics, or, rather, from the works of those who aspire to be ranked among the classic writers. All works are not classic which are written in classic form, and we very much doubt if Time will accord that high term to some of the works selected on this occasion. A quonior, by F. Schubert, known all over the world as the most charming of song-writers, by

the first place on the programme. This is a composition of much merit, but it does not rise beyond fair mediocrity. It contains nothing to call for particular remark, being rather pretty, ingenious, tedious, but certainly below the level of the classic standard. The second instrumental piece was a duet by Mendelssohn for piano and violinello, which was very charming as a composition, and was well played by Messrs. Mason and Bergner. Mr. Bergner, violinist, produces a pleasant tone, executes neatly, and plays with taste, but the style is by no means large.

THE DRAMA.

When eight theatres, an Italian opera-house, half a dozen Ethiopian performance-saloons, it cannot be said that the American metropolis languishes for excitement in the way of popular amusements. It must also be admitted by any one who is at all familiar with the current of public taste, that these claimants of the general favor are, by no means, treated with indifference. We doubt that there is a respectable place of the kind open in New York at present which may be called unfortunate. In spite of the diurnal panics manufactured for effect upon the money-market, all may be denominated prosperous; and though some, as usual, owing to their superior enterprise, their happy fact, or their accidental harmonization for the nonce with the public caprice, may be realizing more than others, there is scarcely one that is not doing a more profitable business, at this time, than it has done for years before.

THE BROADWAY THEATRE, the past week, has been occupied, so far, with Miss Julia Dean, (Mrs. Hayne,) in a number of her favorite roles. Miss Dean (we use her maiden name because, professionally, she is best known by it) is a good, very good, but not a great actress. We wish we could honestly say more in her favor. As an American, it would occasion us satisfaction; as a critic, we should despise ourselves. It is customary enough to panegyrize anybody and everybody who holds a position upon the stage, because eulogy is so much more profitable than truth when the latter happens to take the shape of dispraise. In the face of the certainty, however, that we may be called singular, we shall endeavor to adhere to good taste and good common sense; and although it is not impossible that some people may dispute our judgment, few may impugn our disinterestedness, and none our sense of right.

The Broadway is confessedly a "star" theatre. That is to say it depends for its attractions chiefly upon the erratic orbs of the drama that flit about from place to place in the theatrical firmament, and arrogate to themselves in every locality all the honors as well as most of the profits of their exhibition. The system is a vicious one at best. It is pernicious for the public as well as injurious to managers. But, it exists; and as we have to deal with facts, not theories, we treat it as it stands. The regular stock company at the Broadway, therefore, is necessarily composed of inferior material. It can scarcely be said to embrace anything above mediocrity. But, of that more anon.

We had the pleasure of seeing Miss Dean in the part of Mrs. Haller, in the *Stranger*. We have watched her carefully for a long time, and with no little anxiety. Few years ago we predicted that she would ultimately rise to the highest level of her profession. On Wednesday night we confessed ourselves slightly in error, for she has not improved in the least, and we see no prospect of her ever endorsing, as we could wish, our enthusiastic anticipations. She is, we admit, an eminent artist. In some passages her Mrs. Haller is fully equal to that of Fanny Kemble's and superior to that of Ellen Tree. But, others it is marred with a rant that may be admirably suited to certain localities in the American Union, but is wholly out of place in front of an intelligent and educated audience. Her pronunciation, too, is vulgar in the extreme, at times, though correct enough on other occasions. These, it may be said, are minor faults. We differ here. We conceive them to be grave ones. And what is still more important, they have been alluded to by honest critics for some years, without, as far as we can see, superinducing any effective attempt at emendation.

We mention these things the more freely because Miss Dean is really a lady of surpassing natural ability, and started in her profession under auspices of the most flattering character. She has had ample opportunities for useful study. She has been popular and prosperous. She has an educated mind, and a taste that is generally unexceptionable. Her experience is great, and her influence significant. There is no excuse, therefore, for her short-comings in the art she should adorn; and we shall be well rewarded if the remark induce her to bend her great energies to the accomplishment of that perfection she has all the latent genius to secure.

Of the other characters we shall say but little on this occasion. The *Stranger* of W. C. F. her was a respectable performance, and nothing more. Mr. Fenno's Reinert was a cold and stiff portraiture of the warm-hearted friend, but might do. Mr. Chapman's Peter was facile crudeness throughout. Mr. C. is an accredited low-comedy performer; but his humor is hard and spasmodic, his vivacity moribund, and his mannerisms perpetually obtrusive. Mr. Grosvenor, as Francis, was about as good as he used to be at the Museum. The rest merit no special mention. With the exception of Miss Dean, all ranked from "fair to middling," and there are few theatres of far less pretensions in the country that could not easily put to the blush such a performance.

NIRLO'S GARDEN—So called, as Max Maretzek says, because it is not a garden—has given us this week the celebrated Ravel Family. To criticize their entertainment seems superfluous. The crowd that fills the house every time they appear, the laughter, which is certainly irresistible, that they provoke, the universal excellence of their pantomime, and the drollery of their general parts, speak the popular comment. Say what we will, broad mirth is infectious. Everybody can comprehend practical fun. Everybody knows how to laugh, and exactly how to appreciate that which should create a laugh, whether they leave or not their sadder tears for the melancholy realities of every-day life. Hence the success of Robert and Bertrand, as well as Asphodel. Neither, as a composition, is with criticism; but both, by the art of the pantomimist, by the profound study of the grotesque they exhibit, by the sympathy they awaken for the preposterous and the marvellous, can afford to defy the canons of the critics' school, and revel in the enjoyment of the most extraordinary popularity. As a pantomime troupe, however, the Ravel Family have had, as yet, no equal in this country; and we have not seen their superior, as a whole, either in France or Germany. The ballet corps accompanying it is also finished and skilful. Mlle. Robert is a pleasing dancer, with voluminous gauze skirts, symmetrical extremities, and a style of dancing at once voluptuous and interesting. Her *pas* are neat, boldly executed, firm and fascinating. Her *pirouettes* are bewildering and graceful. Her *airs de force* astonish as well as gratify. Considering the national gallantry of our countrymen, it is no wonder that an army of such sylphs, headed by one so prepossessing, should prove attractive.

WALLACE'S is a theatre that merits some favorable comment for its able performance. The "Little Treasure," admirably presented at this house, has been seized upon by one of our artists for a characteristic illustration, which will be found in another column. Miss Gannon, as the "girl of sixteen," heroine of the piece, is a young lady who has been for some time upon the stage; and adding her experience to her want of size, she fills the part in a manner it would be difficult to find fault with. "Rule a Wife and Have a Wife" we witnessed on Tuesday evening. This well known and seldom acted play afforded a little more scope for the general ability of the company. The piece itself is classic, but not one of sterling substance. It is witty, brilliant, and interesting, but very extravagant in plot, and unnatural in its development. Mr. Lester, as Leon, is clearly the meteor of the entertainment. He is a finished and usually very correct performer, though sometimes disposed to run into buffoonery, and so take liberties with his audience and his author. In the first act, his Leon seemed a little too much of the suppliant and the groveller. He bent too low, and was entirely too submissive, although his handsome figure and proper deportment, perhaps, seemed to make it necessary that he should outrage nature a little, in order to fulfill his disguise. In the remaining acts, however, he was just what the author intended—a straightforward, acute, firm, and not easily frightened gentleman; and he represented the character of a meritorious. The Marguerite of Mrs. Conover was simply creditable, and no more. The lady looks well, but is a tame actress. Mrs. Hoey far surpassed her as Estifania. Certes, her comb was immense. She was monstrous, although not hideous. But the costume was handsome, as well as correct, and her presentation of the part the very best thing we have seen her do for years. It was warm, spirited, natural, and effective, and demonstrated her to be a true artist. Mr. Brougham's Cofago was decidedly a diverting thing. His hugely comprehensive rather garments, and his sword placed across his back, excited the laughter of the most phlegmatic; while his nice perceptions of the humor of the part was handsomely appreciated. Mr. Walcott, who is a clever actor, did the best he could with Michael. Wallace's theater is well managed, and abundantly patronized.

BURTON'S.—Mr. Burton has made his theatre a feature in New York. He has not gathered about him this time, as capable a company as it is his wont to possess himself of, and in the female division, especially, he is deficient. He is undoubtedly a host in himself. A better low comedian it would be impossible to find, and what is rather curious, he essayed, lately, a number of parts in very different lines, wherein he has been deservedly successful. We do not allude, by any means, to his John Midway, in "Still Waters Run Deep," which we saw here on Wednesday. Midway is a rôle that could be well filled by any third-rate actor whatever, and is therefore wholly beneath Mr. B's abilities. It demands no talent, except that of looking profoundly stupid, and Mr. B's capacities do not lie in that direction. Capt. Harkley is the prominent character in the piece, and Mr. Jordan does it full justice. He gives the cool assurance, the fashionable profligacy of the Captain a vivid lining, and establishes himself as an actor of positive excellence. Mrs. Hughes makes up capably as the Old Maid, and in the night-scene particularly is very effective. Miss Raymond, as Mrs. Midway, merits some praise.

M. Burton has also produced "The Little Treasure" at his establishment; but Miss Thorne will not favorably compare with her rival in the leading part. Miss T. is prepossessing in appearance, and may one day become distinguished; but at present her attempt to melo-dramatize everything is unpleasant, and sometimes quite ridiculous. Mr. Dyott is always a finished and a pleasing performer. He does everything well, and occasionally surpasses even expectation.

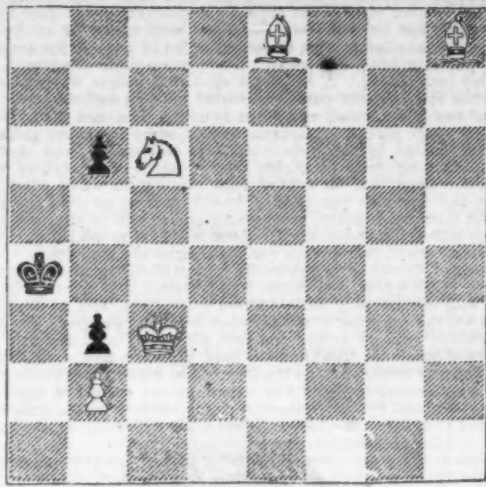
BOWERY THEATRE.—This is a celebrated house for the lovers of melo-drama, and caters for the special audience that usually attends it with great tact and industry. Our own taste may not endorse everything that is here produced and applauded, but as they manifestly gratify those for whose gratification they are designed, we can justly say nothing in opposition. So too, the leading artists of the Bowery may not prove, to our view, exactly what we should like to find them; but as they play, of course, to meet the wishes of their local patrons, and perhaps very often sacrifice their own judgment to succeed, criticism feels bound to remain silent.

NATIONAL.—The remarks we have applied to the performers and performances of the Bowery, are just as applicable to this theatre. Both aim to please a class, and they please it. To say more, would be impertinent at present. Next week we shall treat them with due and distinct attention.

CHESS.

PROBLEM No. 1.—By Mr. M'COMBER.—White to move, and mate in four moves.

BLACK.



WHITE.

GAME No. 1.—Played recently between Mr. FRANKIE of Dundee, and another Amateur.

BLACK.
Mr. G. B. F.

1 K P 2
2 K Kt to B3
3 K Kt takes F
4 Q P 2
5 Kt to Q R 4
6 Q Kt to B3
7 Q Kt to Q5
8 K Kt to K8
9 Q Kt to B3
10 K B to K2
11 K B P 2
12 Castles
13 K B P 1
14 B to K Kt 4
15 Kt takes B
16 E takes P (b)
17 B to K R 5 (ch)
18 B to K Kt 5
19 Q to Q 2 (c)
20 B to K R 4
21 B takes B
22 Q R to B sq
23 Q Kt P 2 (d)
24 B takes Kt
25 Q to K R 4
26 Q to K R 4 (ch)
27 Kt to K2
28 Kt to B4 (e)

WHITE.
Amateur.

1 K P 2
2 K B P 2
3 Q to K B 3
4 Q P 1
5 F takes P
6 B to K B 4
7 Q to K B 2
8 Q B P 1
9 Q P 1
10 B to K Kt 3
11 B to Q 3 (a)
12 K Kt to K 2
13 B takes P
14 K Kt P 1
15 P takes K
16 Q to Kt 2
17 Kt to Kt 3
18 Kt to Q 2
19 K R P 1
20 B to K 2
21 K takes B
22 Q R to K B sq
23 Kt to K B 3
24 Q takes B
25 Kt to Q 2
26 Kt to B 3
27 R to K Kt sq.
28 Q takes R and wins

NOTES TO GAME 1.

- (a) Had he taken P with Q, he would have lost his Q P in return, by K Kt takes Q P.
(b) Well played; if Kt takes R, he wins Q by B to R 5. White's difficulties are owing to his unsound opening.
(c) In order to play Q R to K B sq, and at the same time to prevent White from playing K R to B sq, in which case he would lose the exchange.
(d) Qui bono? Kt to K 2, threatening to check with Q at Kt 4, looks more promising.
(e) A fatal oversight; the game was about even.

CITY ITEMS.

The trustees of the American institute have decided upon purchasing the Crystal Palace for one hundred and twenty-four thousand dollars—the price set upon the building—and propose and appeal to the public to subscribe forty thousand dollars, the amount they are deficient.

A notorious panel thief, named Charley Quinn, was stabbed in the Fifth Ward on Wednesday, by an Englishman named Abbot, at No. 46 Thomas St. The wound inflicted was of a dangerous nature, and the injured man was conveyed to the hospital. Abbot was locked up in the Fifth Ward Station House.

On Monday night a Mr. James Wilson, of White St., was robbed while at the National Theatre, of his watch, valued at fifty dollars, by a party of boys, William Anderson and John Gillen, two of the number, were arrested on suspicion, and it was alleged that one was seen steal the watch and pass it to his confederate, who escaped with it in his possession. Justice Conolly committed the two offenders for trial.

Horace Greely will spend the Winter at Washington as special representative and correspondent of his journal.

REBELLION AT SING SING PRISON.—On Tuesday morning a disturbance occurred at Sing Sing, where a relief keeper named Adam W. Bird, when on duty in the foundry, was assaulted by a convict named McGrath, and badly injured. A second keeper named Van Wart came to his assistance, who with the aid of two convicts removed the injured keeper from the shop. The men in the shop were then ordered to work, which order all obeyed with the exception of McGrath, who sprang at the keeper and was joined by several of the convicts; but the keeper succeeded in getting away, and returned immediately, armed with a carbine, when he was joined by several officers of the prison, who by forcible means compelled the refractory convicts to return to their work. This was followed by a second disturbance on the following day among the quarry gang, which resulted in the death of a convict, named Urber. It appears that the deceased was a desperate character, and had been ordered into confinement by his keeper for insulting language; this he refused to obey, and several officers of the prison attempting to enforce the order, he rushed at them with a crow bar, and was shot as he advanced. An inquest was held upon the body of the deceased, and the jury gave a verdict that the prisoner came to his death from a pistol shot fired by the officers of the prison in the discharge of their duty.

SPORTING.

CENTREVILLE COURSE, L. I.—TROTTING.

MONDAY, Nov. 26.—Trotting match, \$500, mile heats.
W. Whelan, named b. g. Jake Oakley (to 400 lb. wagon) received forfeit.
S. Hoagland named g. g. Tecumseh (to 290 lb. wagon) paid forfeit.
SAME DAY.—Trotting match, \$500, mile heats to wagons.
Owner named g. g. Angelo 1 1
Owner named gray mare 2 2

Time: 3:05—3:08.

RED HOUSE, HARLEM—TROTTING.

TUESDAY, Nov. 27.—Trotting match, \$1,000, mile heats, best three in five, to wagons.
D. Walton named blk. m. Black Pass 1 1
W. Shute named blue g. Blue Poss 2 2

Time: 2:47—2:44½—2:44½.

A trotting match for \$1,000, two mile heats, in harness, came off yesterday afternoon, between b. g. Jake Oakley and a gray mare not yet named, her first appearance in public. Jake Oakley won with ease, as he has won every race in which he has been engaged. He is a very fast horse, with every requisite to make a brilliant career. With good management the coming winter there will be few to master him next spring. The mare is also very fast, and will do better after a little practice on the turf, but at present she is no match for Jake Oakley. The betting previous to the start was 100 to 30, and longer odds were offered as the race progressed. The following is the summary:—
WEDNESDAY, Nov. 28.—Trotting match, \$1,000, mile heats, best three in five, in harness.
W. Whelan named b. g. Jake Oakley 1 1
W. Peabody named g. m. 2 2

First Heat. Second Heat.
First quarter 80 First quarter 80
Half mile 1:17 Half mile 1:17½
First mile 2:36 First mile 2:36
Second mile 3:56½ Second mile 3:56½
Total 6:40½ Total 6:40½

SYNOPSIS OF NEWS—LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THE remains of Mr. Neville of Williamsburgh (a gentleman who had been missing for a fortnight), were discovered in the East River last Saturday, and interred last Sunday afternoon. It is impossible to say whether he committed suicide, was accidentally drowned, or was assassinated.

The gentleman who held the portfolio of foreign affairs in the Greek Ministry, has gone mad. He wanted to wash a white vest for the American, and insisted upon dancing a minuet before the king.

A desperate fight occurred last Saturday night in New Haven between a party of Irishmen and a couple of policemen. One of the latter died in a few hours after, and his companion is not expected to survive long.

The late snow storm prostrated a Roman Catholic Church, in North Adams, Mass., that was in progress of erection.

It is predicted that the new session of the New York legislation will sustain the statutory principle of the prohibition of "liquor."

A gentleman from this city, while bathing at Quogue, L. I. last summer, lost a double set of costly artificial teeth in the water. He ran a mile or more to secure a clam-rake, with which to recover his mouth-ornaments, but was unsuccessful. It is said the neighborhood still rakes for them every day.

There was a prize-fight for \$100 in Boston last Saturday, in despite of the police. The tickets were \$5 each. The victor was badly bruised, and the vanquished almost killed.

Nothing has yet been heard of the missing Boston merchant, Mr. Kilbourn. All kinds of conjectures are afloat as to his fate.

They have arrested four boys in Brooklyn who conjointly occupied a room in a lonely house, filled it with stolen goods, and lived there secluded and joyous on the result of their daily peculations. The result, we suppose, of reading "The Bandit's Own," "Jack Sheppard," and similar literary delinquencies.

There is a patient about 60 years old at the Northern Dispensary in this city, upon whom a bag of grain fell, from a fifth story, as he was stooping. His breast bone is strangely pushed forward; his heart is felt beating several inches below its proper place; his ribs are very much displaced, yet no bone is broken, and he is becoming healthy again.

A mate of a brig living in Brooklyn, went home the other night inebriated, pitched his wife down stairs and the woman after her rallied to her assistance. His wife broke her arm and he went to prison. He is a fair candidate for the gallows.

The people of Australia seem to be bitterly hostile to the Chinese immigrants—quite as much as the Californians. The Celestials, it is said, earn much money but expend nothing.

At Baltimore, last Sunday, a little after seven o'clock, a party of five disorderly persons entered the Washington Hotel, kept by Messrs. Henry B. & Eugene Broaders. The proprietors, with a bar-keeper and several boarders, were in the room. After a time they proposed to go, and all went except one. Mr. H. B. Broaders went up to him, and in a peaceable and quiet manner used his persuasions to get him to accompany his companions. Upon this, he drew a double-barrel pistol, and one shot was fired. Mr. Eugene Broaders, seeing the pistol, went behind the man, and, seizing it, wrested it from him. While having hold of him, another of the party approached from the door, and, taking deliberate aim with a pistol, fired at Eugene Broaders, the ball entering under the right shoulder, and passing through him, lodged under and near the right nipple. He fell instantly, and in a few minutes was a corpse.

Two German railroad workmen, one an old man, started together from Bloomington to go to their place of work. On the route, the old man felt sick or fatigued, and his companion, knowing that he had money with him, (\$107,) prevailed on him to lay down and rest. No sooner had he done so, than he struck a hatchet into his head, jumped on him, and took his money, shoes, and wallet from him, and fled. A woman coming along about an hour and a half after, brought the old man to Bloomington, where he told his story. He was very much injured, it is feared fatally, by the blow.

In the case of Dr. F. L. Zemp, of Camden, vs. the Wilmington and Manchester Railway Company, tried at Sumterville, S. C., the jury assessed the damages at \$10,000. Dr. Zemp lost a leg from the accident, and received other injuries.

Dr. Reese, in his *Gazette*, gives the following estimate of the number of medical students now attending lectures in New York:—

The University School has.....	200
The College of Physicians and Surgeons has.....	160
The New York Medical College has.....	75

Making a total of.....435

We notice, in the last number of the *Southern Times*, at Montgomery, Ala., that Rev. Dr. Lipscombe retires from it to take charge of the Tuskegee Female College. His place will be filled by Rev. Dr. Jesse Boring, of Atlanta, and Hon. B. H. Overby, prohibition candidate for Governor at the last election for Georgia.

Save your salt, for we shall have no more from Turk's Island this season. They do not begin to make much there again until the 1st of March.

They are using gutta percha instead of gold and platinum for plates to which artificial teeth are attached. It is difficult to conceive that the requisite strength can be given to the gutta percha plate without making it very thick and bungling. But we shall see in good time whether it will work telegraph wires, or make water-proof overcoats.

A resolution has been passed by the Georgia Legislature to instruct the Judiciary Committee to report upon the propriety of modifying or repealing the usury laws of the State.

When the ill-fated Ben Sherrod was in flames on the Mississippi River, and the lady passengers who had thrown themselves into the water were drowning under the boat, the wife of Capt. Castleman jumped into the river, with her infant in her arms, and swam ashore, a distance of half a mile, being the only woman saved out of sixteen. She had learned to swim when a girl.

A row took place last Monday night about 12 o'clock in a low large beer drinking place and dance-house on the west side of Broadway, below Leonard street. The proprietor, Louis Heine, and his wife Ann, two friends on one side, and Peter Riley and companions on the other, were the parties. Riley had his head cut open with a lager beer glass thrown by Ann, and his head was beaten by a club in the hands of her husband. Riley's friends rallied, and the place was thoroughly wrecked. The police stopped the fight. Heine and his wife were locked up.

Colonel Wheeler, our Minister, has formally recognised the new government, and Colonel Walker resigned in quiet, having undisputed possession of Granada and the Transit route.

In Oregon the Indians are continuing their depredations.

On Friday last a duel took place between two "young bloods," near Carmanville, which, however, resulted in nothing more serious than one of the gentlemen having the end of his nose skinned.

On Monday evening last, as Wallace T. Vaughan, a mechanic, was proceeding up Broadway, near Wallace's Theatre, the flag-staff from that building was blown down, and, striking him on the head, instantly killed him. Vaughan is a young man, and has been married but a short time.

A man named Crane, while attending a target excursion, on last Monday, at the foot of Fifty-ninth street, East river, was instantly killed, by being shot in the neck with a musket ball. The deceased was in an out-house at the time of the accident. A random shot from one of the party entered the building, and, striking him in the neck, killed him instantly.

A few days since twenty-six Elders arrived from Utah, as missionaries to different parts of the United States and Europe. They were fifty days crossing the plains, and had rather a hard journey. The grass on the first part of the route was devoured by crickets, and on the latter part it had been killed by frosts. They bring quite favorable reports from Utah. Notwithstanding the ravages by crickets and grasshoppers, there will be enough raised to take them through to another harvest.

The women of Lincoln, Ill., a few days ago, mustered in numbers, armed with axes, shovels, hatchets, knives, and pistols, and marched to Boyd's bowling saloon, and destroyed all the liquor, cigars, tobacco, &c., on the premises. They also nearly demolished the house. This they did in order to repeal the license laws in that part of the State.

Our Common Council has agreed on a preamble and resolution setting forth the necessity of having an up town post-office, and requesting the establishment of one at junction of Sixth avenue and Broadway, were adopted. Advocate the establishment of a hundred?

About nine o'clock, on Friday evening, two Customhouse watchmen in Philadelphia, heard a struggle in the water. They soon found that the noise proceeded from a drowning person; and, after some difficult exertion, succeeded in taking from the water the body of a young female—but the vital spark was extinguished. The body was not identified. The deceased appeared to be about seventeen years of age, rather under the medium height, robust, and with a most prepossessing countenance. She had dark brown hair, rather long, wore a dark, striped muslin de laine dress, with lace undersleeves, and all her clothing was of a neat and even elegant description. The only ornamental articles about her were hair bracelets on her wrists, mounted with jet. The shawl of the young woman was found on the mud. Upon the wharf near by was a phial, which still contained a small portion of laudanum from the drug-store of George K. Smith, No. 140 North Third street. Dr. Crad is of the opinion that the young woman had never led a dissolute life, while her hands were as soft and delicate as if she had never toiled.

A large collection of Autographs were sold at auction in this city, last Monday, by Bange & Co. of Broadway. They brought but little. The collection included two hundred and thirteen specimens of penmanship, of all sorts of people, from George Washington down. There were only some twenty or thirty persons present. The highest price, \$11 58, was paid for a letter signed by George Washington. A number of documents, bearing the signatures of Robert Fulton and Robert R. Livingston, were taken by Mr. White at \$1 50. Benjamin Franklin brought \$3 20. Among those sold for one shilling, we saw Governors Shannon, of Ohio and Kansas; Bigler, of Pennsylvania; Cobb, of Georgia; Matthews, of Mississippi; Pond and Griswold, of Connecticut; Hamilton, of South Carolina; and Robert J. Walker, John Van Buren, Benjamin Silliman, Junr., Walter Forward, David Henshaw, S. W. Iana, Louis McLane, Senators Clayton and Dawson, Abel P. Upshur, Thomas H. Benton, Thomas Corwin, Jacob Collamer, Commodore Skinner and Levi Woodbury. Among the two shilling aristocracy there are Governors Marcy, Hunt, Eward, Merion, of Massachusetts; Baldwin and Dutton, of Connecticut; E. F. Butler, Edmund Burke, Postmaster-General Barry, C. E. Chamberlain, Cave Johnson, Governor Brock, Randall Watson, and John G. Thompson.



LIEUT. HARTSTEIN—FROM AN AMBROTYPE, BY BRADY.

LIEUT. HARTSTEIN.

This gallant officer, who was so appropriately appointed by Congress to the command of the "Rescue Expedition," sent out in search of Dr. Kane and his party, is a native of South Carolina. His first commission in the navy is dated April 1, 1828; his present one as Lieutenant, Feb. 23, 1840. Lieut. Hartstein is at this moment in the prime of life. On all occasions, he has distinguished himself by the closest attention to the duties of his profession; and there cannot be a doubt but that the "retired list" of the navy will have the effect to place him in active service, where his talents, his decision of character, and other distinguished merits, will be called into action. Our navy has no young officer in whom greater pride is felt than Lieut. Hartstein.

GEORGE H. BARRETT.

The retirement from the stage of this sterling actor, after fifty years of public service, is an era in the Theatrical world. In the long time of a half century, Mr. Barrett sustained the reputation of a good citizen, and for his genial and most excellent manners, was every where known as "Gentleman George."

The American party at Boston, at a Delegate Convention, held on Tuesday night, nominated Dr. Nathaniel B. Plurteff as their candidate for Mayor.

Reports from Belize (Honduras), speak of severe losses being sustained by the inhabitants from the late earthquake, many of whom had to camp out, in consequence of their houses being thrown down.

The frigate Potomac, which has recently been overhauled at the Brooklyn navy yard, and was under orders to proceed immediately to the West Indies, has anchored in the North river, off the Battery, where she will await instructions from the Navy Department.

An Illinois paper hostile to Senator Douglas, accuses him of being an advocate of slavery, this charge is responded to by a friendly paper, who denounces the charge as a vile calumny, and boldly asserts that the senator is hostile to the peculiar institution and its extension.

From the Bahama Herald we have news from Turks' Island to the 29th ult. Provisions were scarce and dear at Inagua; a small supply of flour and biscuit was received from Nassau; salt was thirty cents per bushel. At Long Bay, Crooked Island, the inhabitants were only saved from starvation by obtaining a small supply of provisions from a neighboring island.

COL. A. B. GRAY, CHIEF SURVEYOR OF THE GREAT AMERICAN SOUTHERN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

We have been permitted by a friend to copy an ambrotype (by Brady) of Col. A. B. Gray, whose position for some years past, has often brought him prominently before the public, and whose recent exploration in connection with the Great American Pacific Railway has been so eminently successful. Col. Gray is a native of Virginia, and very early in life commenced the profession of Engineering under the instruction of the able American astronomer Captain Andrew Talcott, a graduate of West Point, and formerly of the department of Military Engineers. He was engaged with Captain Talcott in the survey of the Delta of the Mississippi, and upon the exparte surveys of the North Eastern Boundary. When only 19 years of age he was honored by the Republic of Texas with the appointment of Surveyor and member of the Joint Commission under the convention with the United States to define the boundary line between the two countries, which important work was executed to the entire satisfaction of both parties, and upon its completion, received high and most flattering compliments from the legislature and chief officers of the Republic of Texas. Afterwards he was engaged for several years under the War Department in explorations upon Lake Superior; and made to the General Government the first report and map of the extent and vast importance of the copper mines in that region.

He was also connected and co-operated with several expeditions in



COL. A. B. GRAY, CHIEF SURVEYOR OF THE GREAT AMERICAN SOUTHERN PACIFIC RAILWAY—FROM AN AMBROTYPE, BY BRADY.

the Comanche country on the northern frontier of Texas, and at the close of the Mexican war was appointed Chief Surveyor and Member of the Joint Commission under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, to run and mark the boundary between the United States and Mexico. While engaged upon this duty at the Pacific end of the line, he afforded essential service to emigrants crossing the plains, and particularly on one occasion, when falling in with Col. Collier, and a large party of Custom House officers and others, five months out from Santa Fe, short of provisions, and mostly on foot, he successfully conducted them from the Colorado Desert by a new pass which he



GEORGE H. BARRETT—FROM AN AMBROTYPE, BY BRADY.

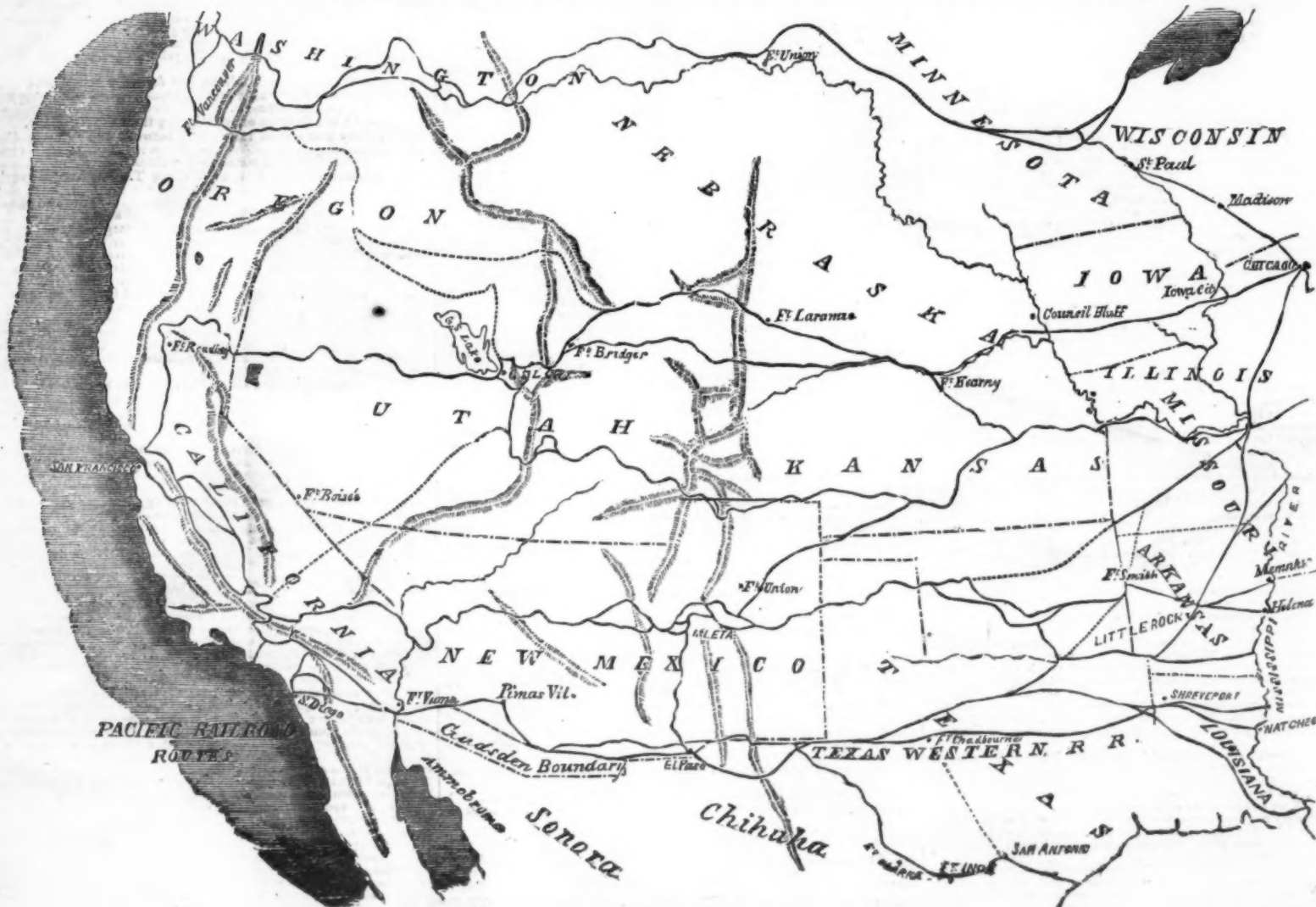
had discovered through the mountains, into San Diego; thereby saving them from much severe suffering, several days travel, and the probable loss of their remaining animals and baggage.

After the adjournment of the Joint Commission in California, he repaired to the Rio Grande; and upon examination of the proceedings transacted in his absence by Messrs. Bartlett and Condé, discovered that a very material error had been committed in adopting the parallel of 32° 22' north latitude for the southern boundary of New Mexico, and immediately caused the suspension of the erroneous line; thereby preventing the proposed retrocession of the Mesilla Valley to Mexico. His famous and unanswerable protest and correspondence upon that subject are well known to the public, and although declining to affix his signature to the necessary papers establishing the initial point for the demarcation of the line at 32° 22', and by reason of which he was recalled by the Department, he had the gratification of being fully sustained by the Senate and Congress of the United States, and by the patriotic sense of his country.

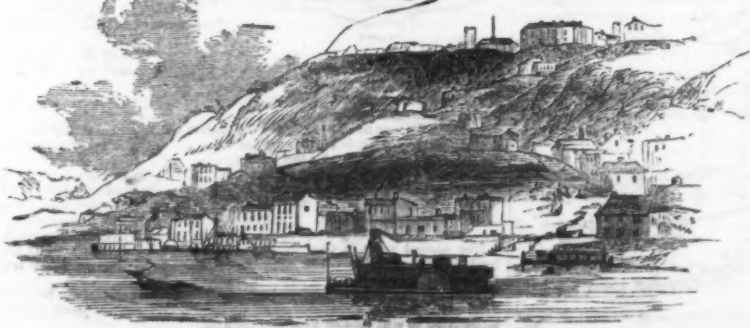
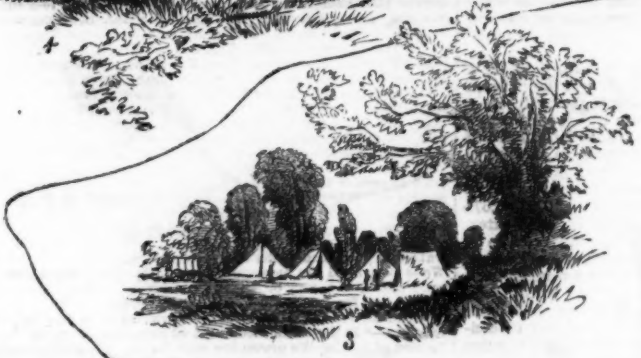
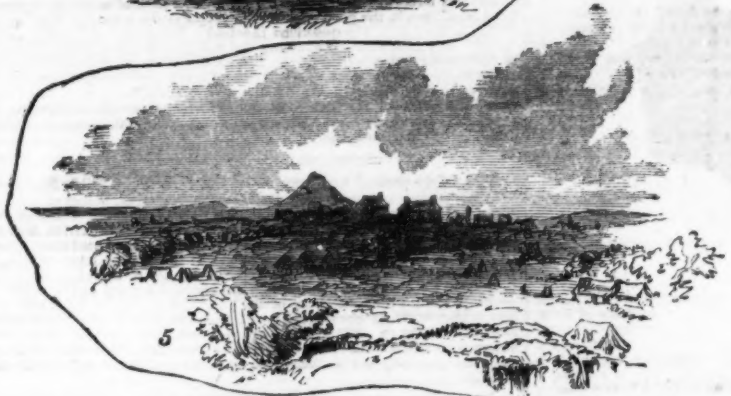
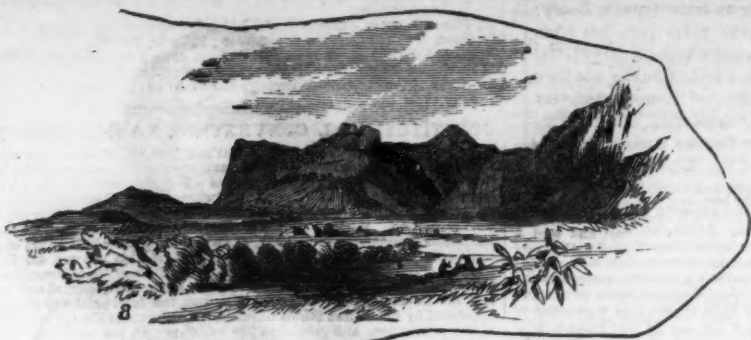
The able Report of the Committee of Foreign Relations in the Senate, not only dissented from Mr. Bartlett, but disapproved of the views and course of the Secretary of the Interior, which was followed up by an act recalling the whole commission. From the above error arose the necessity for the subsequent \$10,000,000 purchase of the Mesilla valley.

Col. Gray has twice explored entirely across the continent and made several reconnaissances through the Territory west of the Rio Grande, penetrating the unknown region towards the head of the Gulf of California, and across the great jornadas of the Colorado. This last expedition to determine the practicability of a great national highway by Railroad to the Pacific along the parallel of 32, has been most eminently successful. His recent Report to the Company under the Texas Western Railroad Charter is one of the most convincing and satisfactory documents that we have ever met with, and is so full and explicit in relation to the essential characteristics of the road as to remove all doubt of its entire feasibility.

Fearlessness, energy and determination, united with sound judgment and caution have carried Col. Gray through many dangers, and enabled him to endure great privations and hardships, always, however, cheerfully sharing them equally with the humblest subordinate of his party. Success seems uniformly to have attended his expeditions; though seldom or never trusting to guides, and running lines regardless of roads or trails he has never been surprised, even when attended by only a few men, and surrounded by hostile bands of savages. Like the far famed Fremont, he has been continually on the frontier, and next to that intrepid explorer has probably seen more field service, according to his age, than any man of his profession.



MAP OF THE THREE PROPOSED PACIFIC RAILWAY ROUTES



PANORAMA OF THE GREAT SOUTHERN PACIFIC RAILWAY—(SEE PAGE 14.)

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE DIFFERENT PACIFIC RAILROAD SCHEMES.

THE prospects of realization of this great national undertaking presented by the commencement of the Great Texas Western Line, renders a short sketch of the different routes proposed, or actually surveyed, of peculiar interest at the present moment. The first suggestion for building a railroad to the Pacific was made in the spring of 1836, in the Senate of the United States. It was upon the occasion of a bill introduced by the Hon. Robert J. Walker, for a grant by Congress of one million of dollars, reimbursable out of the five per cent. land funds of the States of Mississippi and Alabama, to fill up the vacuum in the chain of roads uniting the Atlantic coast with the Valley of the Mississippi, by devoting this fund as a grant to those States to complete the then unfinished portion from Montgomery, Alabama, to Jackson Mississippi. Mr. Walker was then Senator from the latter State, and took that occasion to point out the direct bearing this westward course would have upon the construction of a railway across the continent, as promising eventually to command in a great measure the carrying-trade and commerce of Asia and the Indies. He called attention to the country lying south of the Red river, through Texas, and south of the Gila river, as clearly presenting the most practicable route, even on the scanty information possessed at that time, of the vast interior of our continent. At the same session of Congress (1836), the far-sightedness and clear perception of Mr. Walker, again manifested themselves in the debates upon the subject of the surplus fund of 38,000,000 of dollars then in the treasury. Under the proposition pending to distribute this fund among the States, Mr. Walker moved to appropriate it to the purchase of California from Mexico, as well as of a quit claim to the territory of Texas, with the consent, of course, of that Republic, assigning, among other reasons for this acquisition, that it would secure to us the great prize of a Pacific railroad route, and the consequent realization of the control of the Asiatic trade.

Had this scheme prevailed, the subsequent cost of California and of the Mexican war would have been spared, and the prosperity of those countries advanced incalculably. When the Peace treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo came before Mr. Polk's cabinet for discussion, in 1848, Mr. Walker, then a member of it, strenuously opposed it, because, among other reasons, it did not give us the territory necessary for a practicable railroad route.

This, we believe, was the first public demonstration in favor of a railroad to the Pacific, which seems now about to be realized upon the very route suggested at that remote period by Mr. Walker.

Subsequently, Mr. Whitney, Col. Benton, and several other gentlemen projected plans. Mr. Whitney proposed a line running from Lake Michigan, by way of the "South Pass," near the parallel of 42°, ascending to an altitude of 8,000 feet above the sea. Col. Benton's line took a course from St. Louis, by the Cotechouche Pass, reaching an altitude of 10,000 feet, and the latitude of 38° north. A third route was called the Albuquerque route, near the 35th parallel, ascending a height of 7,000 feet; and the fourth line, known as Gen. Rusk's route, of the 32nd parallel—advocated by him in the United States Senate—is the same originally suggested by the Hon. R. J. Walker, reaching an altitude of 5,200 feet. These were all the principal projected lines to connect the Valley of the Mississippi with the Pacific.

After the acquisition of California, and the development of the resources of Oregon and our possessions on the western slope of the Rocky Mountains, the matter of this connection with our Atlantic States, by a speedy and safe inland communication, seemed to demand immediate attention. The risks and dangers of the sea route, besides the great length of time required by the passage of the Isthmus, presented in too plain a light the necessity of steps being taken to have this noble project consummated. But little opposition at that time was offered to Congress adopting measures to facilitate it; and an appropriation was passed in March, 1853, for making explorations of the proposed routes, and to obtain a more definite knowledge of the difficulties to be overcome, and of the general topographical features of the country. The whole nation, from Maine to Texas, appeared to realize the necessity of a Pacific Railway; and the latter State, possessing vast territorial means, came forward, and, by legislative enactments, granted liberally her lands to further the measure.

The Cabinet of Mr. Pierce—or at least a section of it—Messrs. Guthrie and Davis—made speeches, advocating it as a great national work, and of its being constructed by government. On the assembling of Congress, however, this plan was immediately opposed in the House of Representatives, and very properly, for it was evident that it must be done by private enterprise to ensure its prompt and early completion. Every disposition was shown by Congress to aid and facilitate the construction of such a road, but differences as to the mode of assistance, interminable discussions, sectional preferences, and the improbability of coming to a final decision as to the most practicable line, prevented anything being done by Congress.

In the meantime, several government and private expeditions were fitted out, and since the adjournment of the last session, the various reports of surveys have been published and extensively discussed. We have these reports before us, and from a full and impartial investigation of the various lines proposed, and the conclusions of the most competent scientific men, we feel convinced that but one road is practicable at the present time, and that for various reasons it will be carried into execution, and without much delay. This route, as we stated on a former occasion, is that which runs upon the line of 32°, through the Northern part of the State of Texas to El Paso, on the Rio Grande, thence to the junction of the Gila and Colorado Rivers, through the Gadsden purchase, and thence to the Pacific coast at San Diego and San Francisco, in California. The section, already in the hands of the contractors, with the first 25 miles to be finished by August next, begins on Caddo Lake, and runs through some of the richest and most populous counties in Texas, where it has been estimated that over fifty thousand bales of cotton at one time, have been lying unavailable for want of means of transportation to a market. The first 500 miles extend to and a little beyond Fort Chadbourne, whose situation we have given in the table appended to the panoramic view, taken from Col. Gray's report; and the entire country for a great distance on either side, reaching to Red River on the North and the Gulf coast on the South, is represented to be of the most desirable character, capable of sustaining a dense population, with ample timber, and streams of delicious water, and a climate unsurpassed for health and comfort. The soil is said to be of the most superior kind, and produces most of the valuable staples and cereal grains known to the South, such as cotton, tobacco, wheat, corn, etc., and is for pastoral and grazing purposes probably unequalled. The emigration flowing at present into Texas, and the additional impetus which the opening by railroad to a ready market for all produce, must give to settlements through that region, will, in our opinion, render this section of the road self-sustaining. The balance of the line to the Rio Grande, something less than 300 miles, will have portions such as the Llano Estacado or Staked Plain, which, though it may not be settled, will be useful for grazing districts. West of the Pecos River it is represented to be peculiarly adapted for the maintenance of countless herds of cattle, the grama grass retaining its nutritious qualities, winter and summer. The valleys of the Pecos and Rio Grande are not only fertile, but possess resources to render them highly cultivable and productive, and with the facilities afforded by a railroad must become a thriving and populous section. The Rio Grande and the vicinity of El Paso, has an extensive valley above and below of 100 miles, and numerous settlements of Americans and Mexicans. It grows fine wheat, corn, fruits, and a variety of vegetables, of the best quality. It is proverbial for producing excellent grapes, from which a native wine is manufactured, not excelled by that made in California. For many miles the valley is highly cultivated and is almost a continuous garden with abundance of fine apricots, peaches, pears, plums, and other fruits.

Such seems to be the true character of that part of Texas along the parallel of 32°, and for several degrees on each side of it. On referring to the reports, we find but one opinion expressed regarding this region. Major Hamilton Merrill, U. S. Army, thus speaks of it in a letter to ex-President Jones, of Texas:—

"An active service of over five years in your State, most of which has been confined to the remote borders, has brought under my personal observation much of her country, and, I may say, all you refer to, and as lying east of the Rio Grande. For grazing purposes, there is, perhaps, not a finer country in the world. The climate of this latitude is mild and beautiful all seasons of the year. For general health, it will compare with an equal extent of any country throughout the United States. Nearly all the country along this route is susceptible of a dense population, composed generally of rich lands easily cultivated, well watered, and has an abundance of stone, with a due proportion of timber.

"That the line of 32° is by far the cheapest and most practicable route for

the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad, is, in my own mind, settled beyond a doubt. Possessing an easy grade, with ample stone, timber, and water, passing through a rich and beautiful country, with a climate not surpassed, if equalled, by any in the world, it cannot fail to attract the attention of all, and become the favorite route of the country."

Captain Pope, of the Topographical Corps, in his report to the Secretary of War, makes use of the following language:—

"A great portion of the timber of the region intersected by the Colorado and its tributaries along this route is the mesquit, which, about thirty feet in height, and about six to ten inches diameter, divides about equally with the prairie lands, this entire district of country. The Brazos and its tributaries are better supplied with oak timber of a larger size; the country is more undulating, and the water more abundant. Immense coal-beds, of good quality, crop out along the valley of the river, and every natural advantage of soil and climate is offered to the emigrant. A military post (Fort Belknap) has been established upon this stream, near the 33rd parallel. But by far the richest and most beautiful district of country I have ever seen, in Texas or elsewhere, is that watered by the Trinity and its tributaries. Occupying, east and west, a belt of one hundred miles in width, with about equal quantities of prairie and timber, intersected by numerous, clear, fresh streams and countless springs, with a gently undulating surface of prairie and oak openings, it presents the most charming views, as of a country in the highest state of cultivation; and you are startled at the summit of each swell of the prairie with a prospect of groves, parks, and forests, with intervening plains of luxuriant grass, over which the eye in vain wanders in search of the white village or the stately house, which seem alone wanting to the scene.

"The delusion was so perfect, and the recurrence of these charming views so constant, that every swell of the ground elicited from the party renewed expressions of surprise and admiration.

"It may seem strange that a region suggestive of such florid description should still remain so nearly uninhabited; but it must be remembered that this part of Texas is yet but partially explored, that it is far from the markets, and that it is still infested by hostile Indians. A full knowledge of its startling beauty, and of its amazing fertility, and the construction of facilities of communication with a market, will soon convert this charming region into a reality, of which nature has exhibited so beautiful a presentment."

The country along the parallel of 32° is thus described by Col. A. B. Gray, in his report of a reconnaissance for the Pacific Railway through Texas:—

"For pastoral and agricultural purposes, this section of the country is believed by those who have been through it to have no superior. Springs and streams of fine water everywhere abound, the quality of the soil being very excellent; whilst line and sand-stone quarries are abundant. Though just after a heavy north wind in January, the bright buffalo and meadow grasses waving in the sunlight, and glistening from every valley and hill slope, presented the appearance of vast cultivated fields; whilst the picturesque oak groves, resembling orchards, and the gardens of the settlers about Fort Chadbourne, furnished indisputable evidence of productiveness and a genial climate.

"Two companies of dragoons were stationed there, under command of Lieut. Hawes. Large supplies of excellent hay, the spontaneous growth of the neighborhood, were piled up near the stables, and everything seemed to contribute towards an early, prosperous, and thick settlement. It presents one of the most attractive and well-favored districts, although so recently having the appearance of a savage wilderness.

"From the almost entire absence of snow and severe cold, it seems to be well adapted to the raising of cotton, tobacco, corn, and wheat, as well as the excellent and grains generally.

"Some idea of the salubrity of the climate may be found in the following memoranda, computed from an interesting meteorological journal of Assistant-Surgeon Ephraim Swift, U. S. Army, to whom and many other officers I am greatly indebted for facilitating the object of the expedition, and for other kindnesses to which I shall refer more particularly hereafter:—

Mean temperature of Fahrenheit's Thermometer, years 1852 and 1853, Fort Chadbourne, Texas.

WINTER MONTHS.		SUMMER MONTHS.	
1852, November,	61° 7'	1853, June,	70° 59'
" December,	48 74	" July,	74 71
1853, January,	48 5	" August,	75 58
" February,	51 3	" Sept.	70 59
" March,	53 48		

Greatest heat at 3 P. M., 96°, twice in August.

Greatest cold, sunrise, 7 o'clock, February 7th, 9° above zero, once.

Four inches of snow—disappeared in 12 hours.

Greatest depth of rain, 6-48 inches—month of May.

"What is here remarked of the country, its productiveness, and climate, will apply to an extent of 500 miles, from the eastern borders of the State of Texas along the 32d degree of north latitude. I am not wrong in asserting that elements of every kind, and almost every want which can be relieved from a rich soil and salubrious climate, will be supplied throughout this distance, and in a very short period of time. I was for more than a year engaged in marking a portion of the eastern boundary of Texas, and having assisted in establishing on the ground the parallel of the 32d degree of north latitude, where it intersects the Sabine, the Brazos, and the Colorado rivers, and on expeditions at various seasons through the adjacent districts, I can say, that I know of no country more peculiarly adapted, in every way, to the construction and maintenance of a railroad. The mild and spring-like atmosphere, a perpetual healthy and pure climate, suitable to the growth of the most valuable staples; its numerous rivulets and fine alluvial bottoms, fruitful valleys, and rich uplands interspersed with prairie and timber; a far greater proportion of cultivable ground; inexhaustible beds of excellent coal, iron, and other mineral deposits, render it, in varied and valuable resources, unequalled for such a length of line as this railway will embrace. The western end of this section, towards the Mustang Springs, though of equally fertile soil, and covered with exuberant grasses, is chiefly devoid of timber, only occasional groups of dwarf mesquit and hackberry being to be found.

The Company now operating upon this line is formed under a charter granted by the State of Texas, under the title of the "Texas Western Railroad Company," invested with the right to locate—construct, own and maintain a railroad from the Eastern boundary of Texas to El Paso on the Rio Grande. The whole length is 783 miles through the region described, and the Company is to receive 16 sections of land equal to 10,240 acres, for every mile of road built. From Colonel Gray's report the estimate placed upon the value of the lands that can be selected by this Company, is \$44,470,674 at the rate of 7 1/2 and 3 dollars per acre—including town sites, stations, &c., as the road is constructed. This does not seem to be at all extravagant, when compared with the Illinois Central Railroad lands, which, under far less advantages have averaged considerably above that rate. The estimated cost of the entire road under this charter is \$19,688,366, averaging for the 783 miles \$25,144 per mile. This, from a comparison with the cost of constructing roads through our Western and Southern States appears to include a liberal margin. Under the charter granted to this Company—there are none of the restrictions by which the Illinois Central Railroad is bound, such as paying to the State 7 per cent. of the profits; and the quantity of land granted is nearly three times as great. We cannot see then how a company possessing such a munificent donation and such privileges can fail to succeed. This division of the Pacific route will unquestionably be built. We understand that the contractors for this road, the Messrs. Brown of Ohio, are responsible and energetic men, possessing great experience in works of this kind. They have not only contracted to build the first hundred miles, but agreed to construct the whole road to El Paso on similar terms under the Texas Western Charter.

The Vicksburg and Shreveport Railroad through the Northern part of the State of Louisiana now being built is to terminate on the Texas border at the beginning of the Texas Western line. Louisiana, alive to the importance of this great Pacific connection through Texas has subscribed \$2,000,000 to the Shreveport Company, and roads from St. Louis, from Cairo, from Memphis, from Gaine's Landing and from New Orleans, are concentrating upon the parallel of 32° in Texas, making with the Vicksburg and Shreveport road, six branches, which must consequently establish it the main trunk railway to the Pacific. In our next we shall continue the series of Panoramic views from Colonel Gray's report, extending through the Gadsden Purchase, and it is our intention also to enlarge a number of these interesting landscapes to the size of the original sketches; with further statistical information, as is in our possession.

Table of views illustrating points in the vicinity of the Texas Western Railroad in connection with Pacific Railway, from Colonel Gray's reconnaissance:—

- 1 Vicksburg, on the Mississippi.
- 2 Shreveport, on Red River, Louisiana.
- 3 Camp May, near Fort Mason, Texas.
- 4 Church Mountain Valley, 400 miles west of Shreveport, on the parallel of 32°.
- 5 Fort Chadbourne; latitude, 32° 1' 40" N.; longitude, 100° 5' west of Greenwich—376 miles east of El Paso; elevation above the sea, 1677 feet.
- 6 Antelope, found in *vas nero* on the Llano Estacado.
- 7 Pecos River, 215 miles west of Fort Chadbourne; 2497 feet above the level of the sea.
- 8 Southern Terminus of Gaudaloupe Mountains, Texas, 62 miles west of River Pecos.
- 9 Cathedral Rock of the Gaudaloupe Peak; latitude, 31° 50'; several thousand feet above the plain.

* This was during a northern, still less than a day.

- 10 Sierra del Cornudas, (Horn Mountain,) 42 miles west of Cathedral Rock, containing natural tanks of water.
- 11 Sierra del Alamos, (Mountain of the Cotton Woods,) nine miles west of Los Cornudas.
- 12 Hueco Ciénega, (Hollow Tanks,) 24 miles west of del Alamos.
- 13 Town of El Paso, on the Rio Grande; latitude, 31° 45'.
- 14 Molino del Norte, (or Hart's Mill,) from American side of Rio Grande.
- 15 Molino del Norte, from Mexican side of Rio Grande.
- 16 Break of the Rio Grande through the Bluffs of Frontera.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, KANSAS TERRITORY.

THE "constitutional convention," that has just closed its session at Topeka, Kansas Territory, presented a novel and unexpected feature in the works of "squatter sovereignty." The theory of self-government has assumed a new importance, and the whole country is looking to the West for a solution of a strange state of affairs, that seem, to distant observers, to be precipitating a civil revolution. We look upon the original proposition of throwing open the territories to squatter sovereignty, as an evasion of duty in the part of political aspirants in Congress. The men who originated this scheme, did it for the purpose of being relieved of the responsibility of committing themselves on the slavery question; in the soundness of the doctrine fairly carried out, we entertain the liveliest belief. Governor Shannon, the territorial chief magistrate, appointed by the United States Government, denounces the entire proceedings of the convention, and proclaims the resistance to the territorial laws, suggested by any action under this convention, will be treason. If Congress sustains this view of the case, the revolution will follow, and the most sagacious cannot predict the result.

The convention held its first meeting October 23d, and organized by electing Col. Lane, of Indiana, President, who was a member of the last Congress, and voted for the Kansas Nebraska Bill. The Convention was evidently composed of men of considerable moral weight, who manifested a determination to carry out their point, and who seem fully equal to the duties they have assumed. They are warmly supported in the action they take, by the sentiments of their constituents, who are described as comparing favorably with the inhabitants of any of the States of the West. After a session of nearly three weeks, the Convention adjourned on the 11th inst., having adopted a Constitution which is to be submitted to the popular vote on the 15th of December. The Constitution as adopted by the convention, if carried into effect, makes Kansas a free state.

A kin to this, we have intelligence of "a Law and Order Convention," assembled at Leavenworth, together with a speech of Governor Shannon on his election as President. The speech is relevant to the matter, and is likely to bear considerable influence in shaping political events in Kansas. Governor Shannon declaims in unmeasured terms, against the Free State movement, and denounces as being guilty of treason to the State, all who resist the execution of the laws enacted by the late legislature. He asserts that the National Administration is resolved upon supporting the action of the late legislature. We very much doubt about the Federal authorities interfering. They have heretofore, scrupulously kept back when it was their duty to act, and now that matters have assumed a more complicated form, we have no doubt that discretion will characterize their valor, and that the people interested will be left to settle the difficulties in their own way.

"The 'Constitutional Convention' adjourned on the 11th inst., its labors, in the shape of a Constitution for the State of Kansas, to be submitted to the popular vote on the 15th of December next. Meanwhile, the opposition to this proposed new order of things is active, and has the power which grows out of the indirect support of the Federal Government, in the shape of office-holders and the endorsement of the Territorial Legislature.

However forbidding of evil may be the present state of affairs in Kansas, we have confidence in the good sense of the people of the territory, who are, most deeply interested in the questions involved. We see in the "noise and confusion" very little excitement among the masses, it is among the office-holders, or office-seekers that terror reigns; and as things shape themselves into form these disorganizers will be gradually swept away, and the mists and fogs will clear up and exhibit to the world a real legitimate triumph of the people, a new illustration of the idea that man is capable of self-government, than "popular sovereignty" has a higher significance, than its pretended friends at Congress had faith to believe.

The thirty-second anniversary of the New York Bible Society was held last Monday evening in Rev. Dr. Alexander's church, corner of Nineteenth street and Fifth avenue. The annual report shows that the total receipts for the present year amount to \$17,193 53, and the expenses to \$17,193 53, leaving no balance. The number of bibles and testaments distributed during the last twelve months, 55,888. These were published in different languages, and distributed among the different classes of the population of this city. Sales to the number of 1,716 bibles and testaments have been also made at the society's depot, making the total issues of the year 57,601. One of the agents in this city visited 20,777, of whom 1,538 were found totally destitute of the Scriptures, and 139 partially so. 322 families refused to receive it. The whole number of volumes distributed was 2,674, of which 118 bibles and 277 testaments were sold at prices generally below their cost, and the remainder were given to 427 families.

SAILORS' SNUG HARBOR.

ON the 21st instant, the ceremony was performed of laying the corner-stone of a new chapel intended for the inmates of Sailors' Snug Harbor. Dr. Phillips, in his speech on the occasion, gave some interesting incidents of the origin of this most excellent institution. The property, it would seem, was originally a gift made by Captain R. R. Randall, who owned a farm in the fifteenth ward, and on his demise, placed his property in trust, for the purpose of founding a Harbor for Seamen. The original trustees of this fund were Chancellor Lansing, Mayor Clinton, Recorder Livingston, John Murray, President of the Chamber of Commerce; James Fonquar, President of the Marine Society; Thomas Freeman, Vice-President; Rev. Ben. Moore, Senior Minister of the Episcopal Church of this City, and Rev. John Rogers, Senior Minister of the Presbyterian Church. This was the class of officers indicated in Captain Randall's will. The income from the estate, in October, 1806, amounted to \$4,243 07. In 1814, it was \$6,000 per year. Now, it is \$75,000 per annum! The property owned by the Trustees on Staten Island is 121 acres, purchased for \$16,000. It is worth now, \$1,500,000. Upwards of \$80,000 of expense is being laid out in new buildings and sundry improvements. There are 300 seamen fed, lodged, clothed, and cared for generally.

On the interesting ceremony, Mayor Wood and Recorder Smith headed the procession, and Felatiah Peril, General Paer, Rev. Dr. Phillips, Judge Vanderpool, Depeyster Ogden, J. R. Broadhead, John N. Genin and Dr. Griscom, and sundry others brought up the numbers in attendance to a round figure. The company were assembled in the temporary building occupied for religious purposes. The galleries were occupied by the veterans, who listened with the greatest earnestness to the speaker's eulogy of the institution. The company walked in procession to the spot where the corner-stone was to be laid. Mayor Wood performed the ceremony, assisted by Dr. Phillips. Beneath the stone were deposited a copy of the Bible, the New York Directory, sundry morning papers, and documents relating to the institution.

When the various articles were prepared for depositing, Dr. Phillips spoke as follows:—"In the acknowledgment of our dependence on our Covenant God, by way of seeking His protection and blessing in rearing this structure to the honor of His name, in allusion to the fundamental doctrine that we are built upon the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner-stone, that he is the *elect*, tried, precious stone, the Rock upon which the Church is built, and upon which all our hopes for time and for eternal rest, we lay the corner-stone of this building, which is to be dedicated to the worship of the one only living, true God, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

On the completion of the ceremony, the company returned, and sat down to an excellent dinner, when the Mayor presided. The entertainment was a wholly temperance one. The cloth being removed, "The memory of Captain Randall" was given by the president.

Then Joseph Hoxie made an appeal in behalf of the children's Home. Mr. Depeyster Ogden spoke warmly in commendation of the institution, placed as it is where the sons of old mariners will hereafter be happy in the consciousness that under its roof once their fathers rested.

Mr. Henry E. Davis followed Mr. Ogden, and called the attention of the company to two incidents in connection with the history of the place. He first related that when Mr. Henry Brevoort was negotiating the purchase of Captain Randall's farm, from the proceeds of which this institution is founded, for the trifling sum of seven thousand dollars, and being unable to raise more than five thousand of the purchase money, the negotiation dropped through. The second incident the speaker mentioned was, that, to Daniel D. Tompkins, the inmates of the Harbor are indebted for the suggestion, upon which the founder acted in founding this institution.

The following is a description of the new erection:—

The main building is eighty feet square, three stories in height, with counter-cellar and basement.

The first or principal story is used for dining-rooms, which are capable of sitting 600 persons with ease.

The dining-rooms are separated by a wide hall running through the centre of the building. The hall is fifteen feet in width, with an easy flight of stairs to ascend to the third story.

The second and third stories are allotted for sleeping apartments, bath-rooms, water-closets and wardrobes.

In the loft there are four large water-tanks capable of holding each 6,000 gallons of water, which is received from the roof, and otherwise supplied from reservoirs on the premises by force-pumps.

The basement is occupied by the steward's room, kitchen, store-rooms and offices; all of which are admirably arranged for the comfort of the inmates.

The wash-house, facing the main building, is thirty-five feet by fifty, two stories high, with a cellar. The first is devoted to washing, rinsing, drying, &c., by steam. One of King's patent washing machines is operated by power engine.

The second story is devoted to drying and airing rooms. The loft of this building also contains three large water-tanks receiving the water from roof—1,000 gallons.

The chapel is forty-eight feet by sixty-five feet, for the main building, with a rear extension of sixteen feet by twenty-three feet, and a porch in front. It is calculated to seat comfortably 600 persons.

The buildings are well ventilated and thoroughly heated by hot air, and well calculated to produce all the comforts in regard to health, &c., requisite for the inmates of the above institution.

A passage-way connects the main building to the old one, which shelters the inmates in their occupations in stormy weather.

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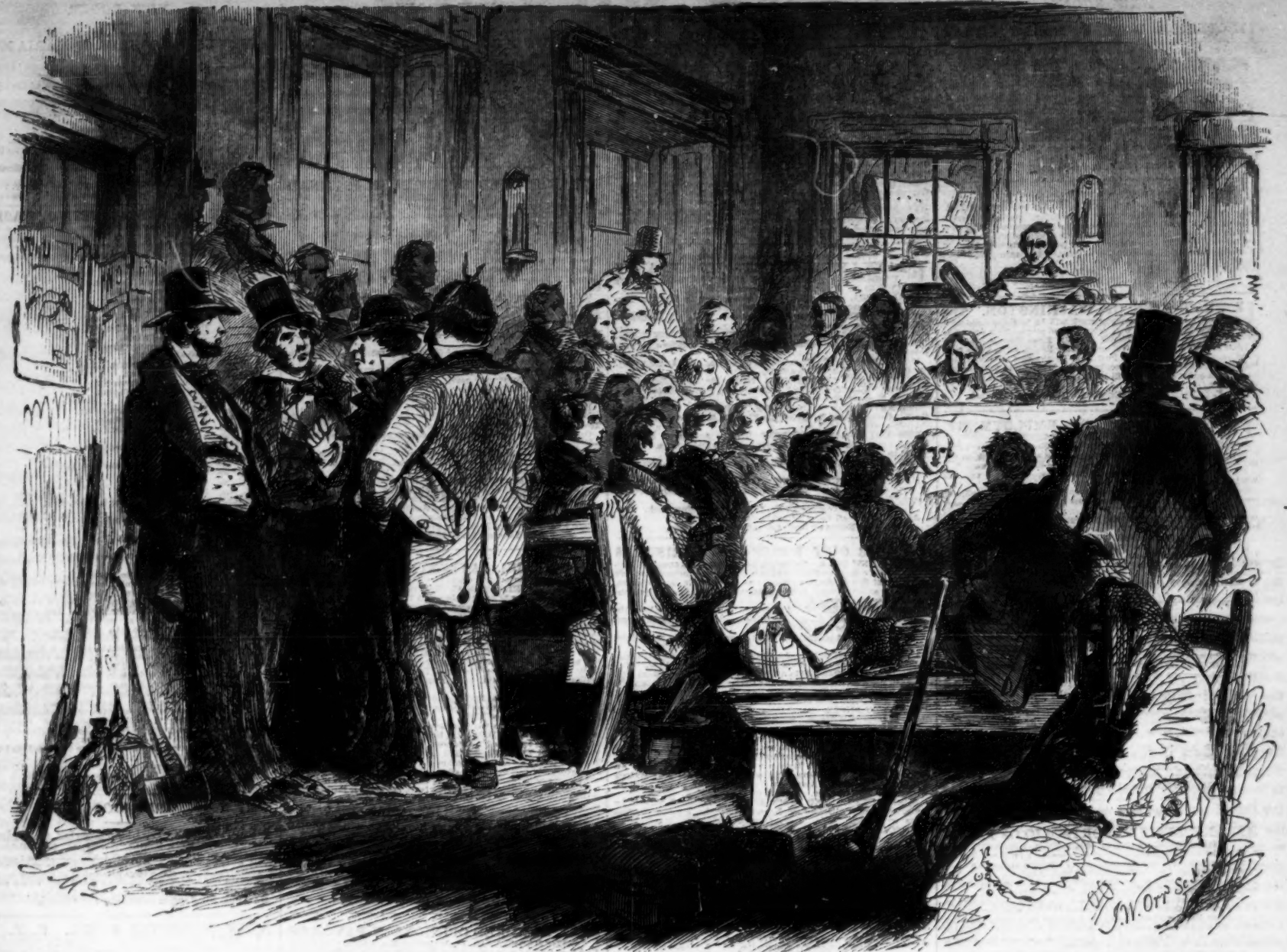
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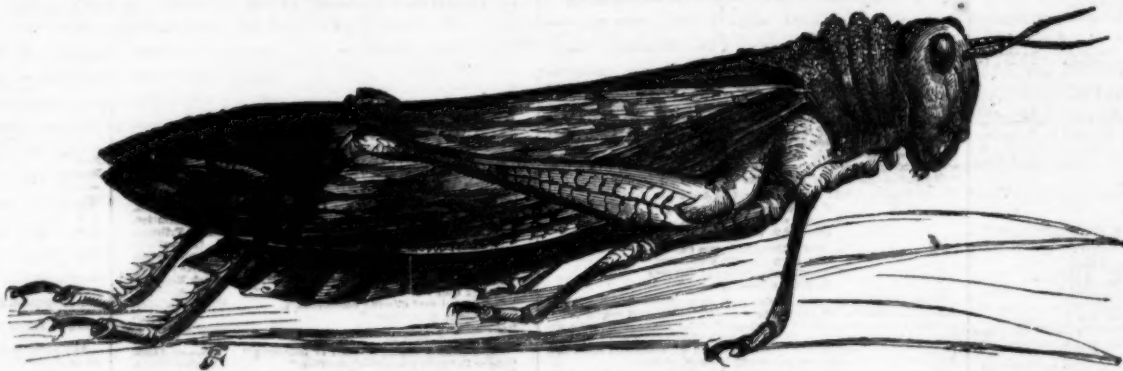
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CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, KANSAS TERRITORY. (SEE PAGE 14.)

THE MONSTER MORMON GRASSHOPPER.

The painful accounts we have had through the year past from Utah, of the destruction of crops by grasshoppers, have been revived in the public mind, by the exhibition at the Corn Exchange of one of the insects that has created such wide devastation. It is truly a hideous insect, measuring five inches in length; there is a prospective famine in its aspect, for it can be readily imagined, that countless millions of them would soon turn the smiling landscape into an arid desert. We trust that some of our scientific gentlemen will give this inhabitant of Mormondom a thorough investigation, that we may know its natural history and precedents. Plagues of insects generally follow in the train of agricultural pursuits, exclusively devoted to the raising of the same crop. It is an imperative law of nature, that in and in breeding, whether in vegetable or animal life, shall be punished by the development of self-destruction; but this conservative arrangement cannot apply to the newly settled country of our vast western wilderness. In Central America there is an insect which closely resembles our Mormon representative, called by the natives, Chapolin. It will, in course of time, turn a tropical landscape into a barren



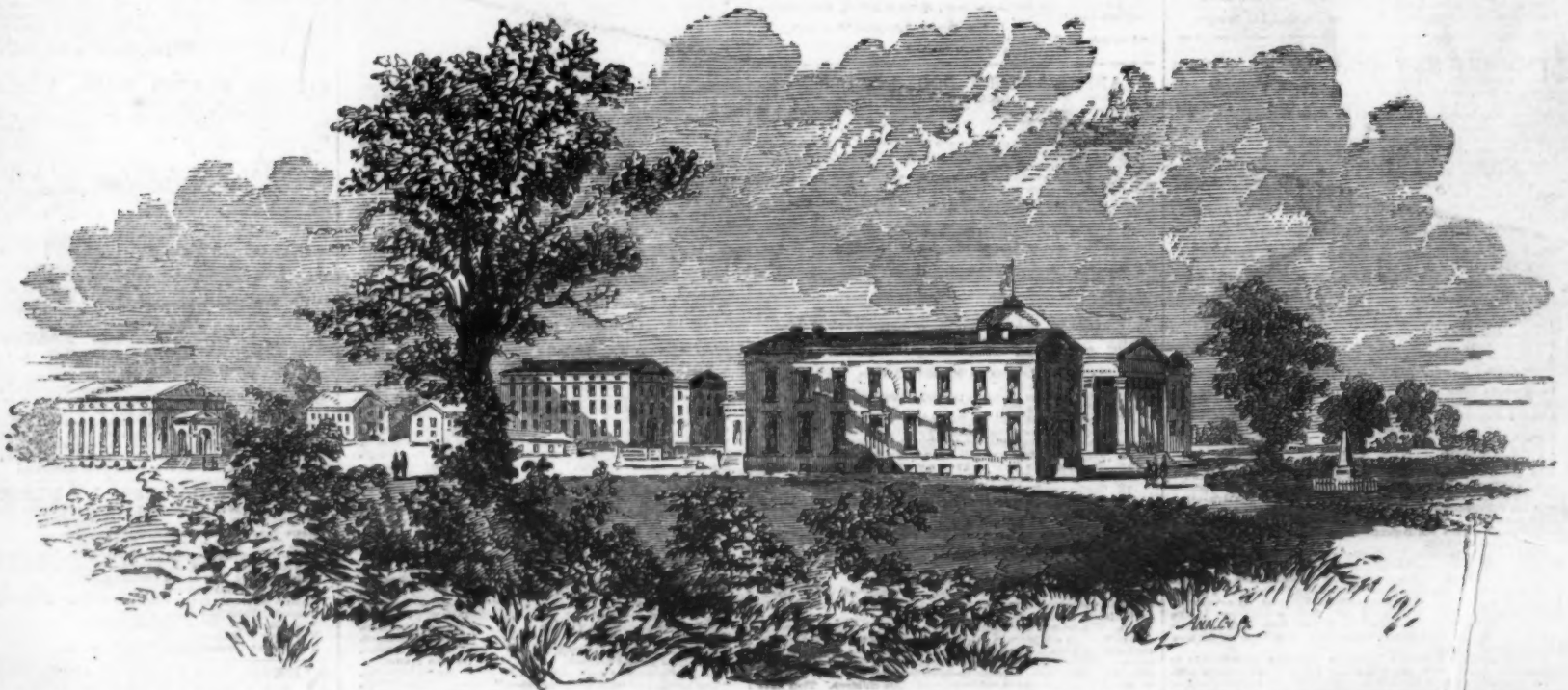
THE MONSTER MORMON GRASSHOPPER, SIZE OF LIFE.

waste, more so than if the fires of heaven had passed over it. The Chapolin consumes the plantain and the palm tree, even the hard leaves of the cactus do not escape its voracity. The noise they make while eating is described as if numerous saw-mills were in active operation. Upon the first appearance of the Chapolin it creeps, then hops and finally, its wings perfecting, it flies.

So numerous are they at times, that at mid-day, they cast a haze over the sun, and like passing clouds, send their long fleeting shadows over the earth. There is no doubt, but that the Mormon grasshopper is of this Central American family.

ABOUT ELEVEN O'CLOCK on Sunday morning, a loud explosion was heard in Philadelphia, which came from the second story front room of the house occupied by Adam Rein, lastmaker and dealer in findings, on the south side of Poplar street, below Fifth. Mr. Rein himself was found in the agonies of death. The body presented a shocking spectacle. The deceased had heavily loaded a horse-pistol, placed the muzzle of it to his mouth, and blew his face and head almost to pieces. The weapon was shattered by the explosion; one hand was much mangled, the breast wounded by the fragments of the pistol, and the shirt set on fire. It appears that deceased had not lived happily with his wife for some time past.

A MRS. FONDA is traversing Illinois, making "stump speeches" in opposition to Senator Douglas. We are afraid the lady has more mischief in her nature than modesty.



SAILORS' SNUG HARBOR. (SEE PAGE 14.)